

Hafa Adai!

Another alleged overstaying tourist intercepted. PAGE 5
Judge consolidates contractor's suit, lien application vs IPI. PAGE 8

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Saipan Tribune

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Minority: Investigate Torres

By IVA MAURIN
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

“We, the members of the House minority [bloc], formally request that you appoint a special committee to investigate allegations of public corruption, fraud, waste, and abuse of public funds by Gov. Ralph Deleon Guerrero Torres.”

That bombshell request was the opening salvo of a letter of request the House of Representatives minority bloc hand-delivered to House Speaker Blas Jonathan Attao (R-Saipan) yesterday, as read into the record by Rep. Edwin K. Propst (Ind-Saipan)

RELATED NEWS

■ Minority lawmakers wants to see Torres' records.
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during a House of Representatives session on Capitol Hill.

The request comes in response to leaked documents that purport to show Torres' reimbursement requests and representation expenses.

See MINORITY on Page 4

Administration's response

“This request by the House minority and their associates demonstrate their obsession with taking down a governor that they simply do not like, as well as their inability to respect legal processes by instead passing judgement

without full context.

“The documents in question were in response to an Open Government Act request that has been answered by the Office of the Governor

See ADMINISTRATION on Page 4



Report cockfighting, get \$2.5K reward

Two animal welfare groups are offering a \$2,500 reward to anyone who reports an individual or set of individuals who violate the federal law against cockfighting.

According to a press release issued

» **US territories required to comply with new federal law**

yesterday, it said that U.S. mainland-based Animal Wellness Foundation and Animal Wellness Action will be running a program that provides a \$2,500 reward

See REWARD on Page 4

File photo obtained from pixabay.com shows a cockfighting match. Two animal welfare groups are offering a \$2,500 reward to anyone who reports an individual or set of individuals who violate the federal law against cockfighting.

PIXABAY.COM

Martial law in PH south to end after two years

By JIM GOMEZ
ASSOCIATED PRESS

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—President Rodrigo Duterte has decided to end more than two years of martial law in the southern Philippines after government forces considerably weakened Islamic militant groups there with the capture and killing of their leaders, his spokesman said Tuesday.

Duterte placed the Mindanao region under martial law after hundreds of local militants aligned with the Islamic State group and backed by foreign fighters occupied buildings,

See MARTIAL on Page 4



INSIDE



BUSINESS

Kevin's Café and Catering joins the growing number of restaurants on island.

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ASIA

A volcano off the New Zealand coast erupts, killing five and leaving eight others missing.

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LIFE & STYLE

A Netflix wave swept over the 77th Golden Globe nominations with 34 total nominations.

PAGE 19



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Local

Fiesta: We are committed to our *man'amko*

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista1222@gmail.com
REPORTER

Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan hosted its annual Christmas luncheon for the island's *man'amko* yesterday, saying they are committed to hosting the event to bring Christmas cheer to the island's elderly.

According to Wendi Herring, Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan general manager, the event means more than just lunch but a commitment

that Fiesta wants to fulfill every year.

"The most important thing is showing [the *man'amko*] that we sincerely care about them. It's just so fun to have them here relaxing, enjoying the holiday season, and just sharing the blessings that we've all had this year," she said.

Herring is happy about this year's turnout, with a larger group of *man'amko* coming to the luncheon compared to the previous year. Over 100

senior citizens showed up for the Christmas lunch.

"There were more [*man'amko*] this year. Last year there were fewer people since we were recovering from [Super Typhoon Yutu]. This year, the numbers are back up," she said.

Aside from the lunch buffet, Fiesta also hosted a raffle drawing for the *man'amko*, hired live entertainment, and even held a dance competition.

"We just want to wish them a very merry and happy

Christmas and all the best for the new year to come," Herring said.

Office of Aging director Walter Manglona confirmed that the number of senior citizens who attended the luncheon this year was much larger compared to last year, with nearly all of Office of Aging seniors attending the luncheon.

"Last year, because of the storm, a lot of our seniors didn't show up because they were busy with their recov-

ery efforts at home. But now, we're back at 100% and we're in full force, so everybody is here, enjoying a great holiday celebration," he said.

Manglona thanked Fiesta Resort & Spa for always keeping the *man'amko* in mind during the holiday season and for always making them feel special.

"I'm actually very happy because, since the time we got here, the staff and manage-

18 Japanese students to venture here for the holidays

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A group of 18 Japanese students from the Kokusai Seishonen Kenshu Kyokai, or International Youth Association of Japan, will be spending the holiday season in the CNMI as they explore the island and learn about its heritage.

The students are set to arrive on Dec. 28 with one chaperone and will be staying with their assigned host families.

According to Yuki Kishimoto, Saipan Mayor's Office student exchange program coordinator, the KSKK group coming in is the winter group and they will be staying in the CNMI until Jan. 2.

The students will be going

ment of Fiesta Resort have been very nice and very courteous and respectful to our elders. They're just overall so great and we appreciate that.

We also wanted to say 'thank you' because a lot of our *man'amko* shared with me how special they feel because of how the community members like Fiesta Resort are always thinking about them during the holiday season," he said.



Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan hosts its annual Christmas luncheon for the island's *man'amko* yesterday at the Hibiscus Hall.

KIMBERLY BAUTISTA

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NOMINATION REQUEST DEADLINE: DECEMBER 13, 2019

Paid for by official funds authorized by the U.S. House of Representatives



Minority lawmakers want to see Torres' records

By IVA MAURIN
iva_maurin@saiplantribune.com
REPORTER

The House of Representative minority bloc wants to see all records related to Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' travel and reimbursements, among others, that are in the possession of the Department of Finance.

Speaking at yesterday's session of the House, Rep. Tina Sablan (Ind-Saipan) disclosed that the minority bloc, of which she belongs, has made an Open Government Act request with the Finance Department for access to its records on Torres' travels and requests for reimbursement, among others.

That includes all records related to Torres' official representation, housing allowances, executive security, chauffeuring services, and reimbursements, "including the policies that determine whether or not the people of the Commonwealth should be paying for all of this."

"The governor and his associates are subjects of a federal criminal investigation involving money laundering, fraud, and illegal campaign contributions," said Sablan, "and now we have records documenting the governor's illegal first-class travel and extravagant expenses paid by the people of the Commonwealth."

In a letter addressed to Finance Secretary David Atalig, the minority requested to inspect and/or copy, among others, "any and all records detailing the policy of the Commonwealth government with respect to payment for executive secretary, protective, or chauffeur services for the governor, lieutenant governor, first lady, or second lady, including but not limited to forms, regulations, memoranda, or executive orders." The request also includes access to records documenting travel expenses paid by the Commonwealth government for Torres and first lady Diann Torres from Oct. 1,

2014, up to the present.

This includes travel authorizations, expenditures, travel vouchers, trip reports, airline tickets, itineraries, per diem payments, meals, accommodations, ground transportation, request for reimbursements, receipts, and government account(s) charged for the expenses.

The OGA request also has the House minority bloc requesting access to records related to first-class, business-

class, or any other premium-class travel expenses paid by the Commonwealth government for any person from Oct. 1, 2014, up to the present.

In addition, it asked for records documenting housing or utilities expenses paid by the Commonwealth government for any government official from Oct. 1, 2014, up to the present.

The OGA request was signed by minority bloc leader Rep. Edwin K. Propst (Ind-

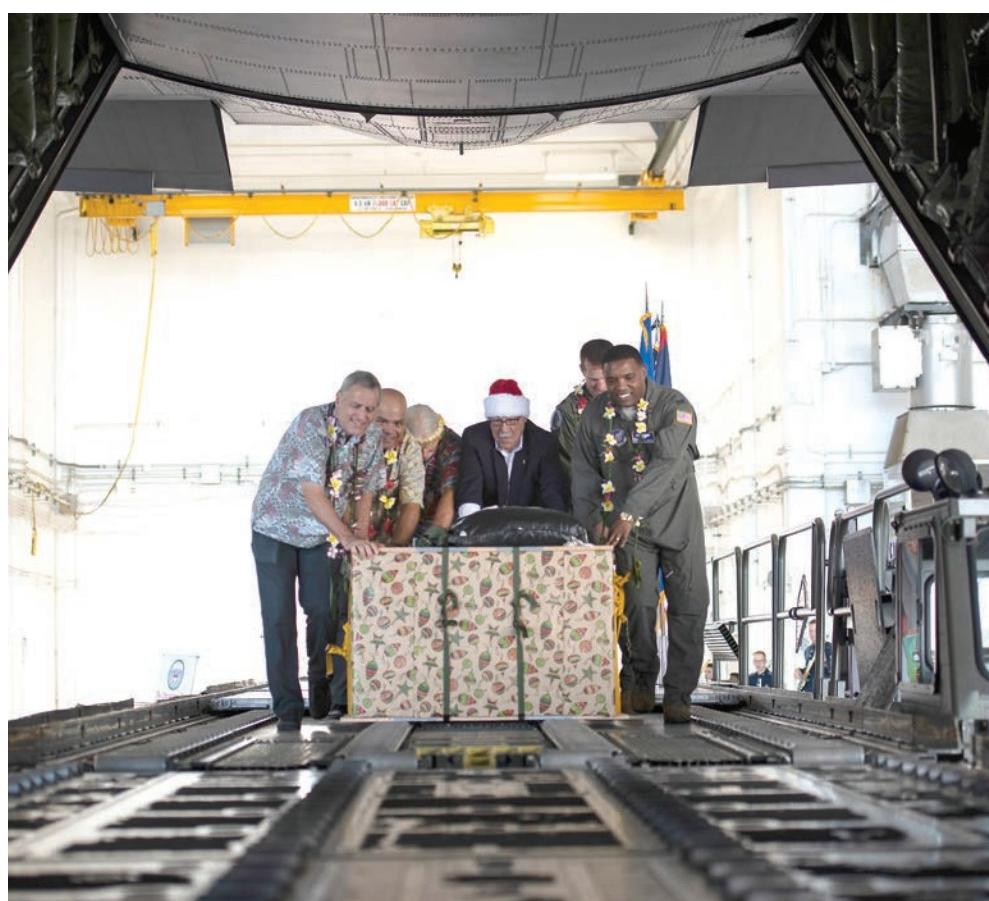
Saipan), Sablan, Rep. Edmund Villagomez (Ind-Saipan), Rep. Sheila Babauta (Ind-Saipan), Rep. Richard Lizama (Ind-Saipan), and Rep. Donald Manglona (Ind-Saipan).

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F H B . C O M



OPERATION CHRISTMAS DROP

U.S. AIR FORCE/SENIOR AIRMAN RYAN BROOKS

Ambassador Robert Riley, U.S. Ambassador to the Federated States of Micronesia, Col. Matthew Nicholson, 36th Wing vice commander, Col. Otis Jones, 374th Airlift Wing commander, and others make the ceremonial "push" of the first pallet to kick off Operation Christmas Drop. Nearly seven decades of valuable training for aircrews and the resulting delivery of more than one million pounds of charitable goods later, the 2019 missions are set to carry on this tradition of international goodwill.



U.S. AIR FORCE/SENIOR AIRMAN RYAN BROOKS

Members of the 36th Wing base honor guard present the colors at the Operation Christmas Drop "Push" Ceremony at Andersen Air Force Base in Guam on Dec. 9, 2019. Operation Christmas Drop is an annual U.S. Air Force tradition of packaging and delivering food, tools and clothing to more than 56 remote islands in the South-Eastern Pacific, including the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of Palau.



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Labor's Benavente: 2019 is a year of challenges

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Labor Secretary Vicky Benavente can't wait for 2019 to end, given the many challenges her agency faced in the current year, from breaking in new regulations for the foreign worker program, to a ban on Filipino construction workers, to the last-minute approval of permanent residency to some parolees.

"What a year this has been for the Marianas and the Department of Labor! We've faced many challenges—the implementation of the new CW-1 permit regulations, the CNMI Prevailing Wage, the just-under-the-wire extension for [Employment Authorization Document] holders, the H-2B ban of workers from the Philippines, and the ongoing recovery from Super Typhoon Yutu. Still, the Marianas is showing its resilience more than ever, as a community that is working together to overcome these turbulent times," she said in an email to *Saipan Tribune*.

The CNMI-Only Transitional

MINORITY

From Page 1

In reading the letter, Propst said the Legislature has a duty to investigate the allegations. Enclosed with the minority's letter were documents that included copies of a federal search warrant, a receipt for property seized by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, a grand jury subpoena, and government records related to travel, official representation, and reimbursement requests of the governor.

The letter, signed by Propst, Rep. Cristina Sablan (Ind-Saipan), Rep. Edmund Villagomez (Ind-Saipan), Rep. Sheila Babauta (Ind-Saipan), Rep. Richard Lizama (Ind-Saipan), and Rep. Donald Manglona (Ind-Saipan) cites the recent searches the Federal Bureau of Investigation executed on Torres' office and home and that of his associates. It added that the Legislature must not ignore "revelations of lavish and questionable expenses" that Torres had charged the CNMI government.

It said these revelations and incidents "have severely eroded public trust and the integrity of our government. We cannot and must not turn a blind eye."

House rules allow the speaker to create special committees to investigate matters that are referred to them.

The minority lawmakers said the special committee should work with the Office of the Public Auditor and other experts and analysts to examine records and witnesses.

"We further call for civility and decorum and an investigation that is based on facts and evidence," the letter stated. "Gov. Torres, like all citizens of our country and Commonwealth, deserves due process, the benefit of the doubt, and an opportunity to answer for himself to this legislative body and the people we represent."

The minority bloc's call was challenged by House floor leader John Paul Sablan (R-Saipan), saying that the Legislature cannot operate based on accusations.

"We should allow the expert enti-

Worker program that was supposed to end in 2019 was extended for another 10 years in 2018. However, the complex new non-immigrant worker process had employees and employers alike in pins and needles as the previous one-step process became a cumbersome six-step affair.

Fortunately, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services extended the filing of renewals for employers who have not yet received the temporary labor certifications required to renew their employees' CW permits for fiscal year 2020.

One of the new components of the extended CW program is the CNMI Prevailing Wage, which was started late and suffered from not many companies actually participating.

And then there was the U.S. declaring the Philippines ineligible for the H-2B visa program due to overstaying and human trafficking concerns.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

ties to conduct this investigation of the expenditures of our government. To just create a special committee based on accusations and assumptions, I do not think it is rightfully right. Let us respect the process," Rep. John Paul Sablan said.

In response, Villagomez said that trust in government is important. "We need to represent the people the best we can. We should never forget that they are our boss."

Villagomez also reminded that the House of Representatives is a separate branch of government that could make its own investigations.

Checks and balances

Rep. Cristina Sablan said the CNMI is facing matters of grave and constitutional urgency, hence the need for a special committee to investigate Torres.

"When there are breaches of the Constitution or the laws of the Commonwealth committed by public officials in one branch of government, our democracy depends on the other branches to provide accountability and restore balance," she said.

There may be a legal process that is already underway, but Rep. Cristina Sablan pointed out that the House of Representatives has its own process for doing legislative investigations.

"Let us do our jobs," she said, appealing to her colleagues. "Which side of history will we choose to be on? Let's choose the side of the people we were elected to serve."

What next?

Attao believes that much of the information that are being shared mostly concerns the Office of the Public Auditor. "A lot of that is an OPA issue and OPA is the entity of the government that should be looking into the finances and how it's being utilized. If it is bad, then the OPA would come up with a report, and OPA would submit the report over here," he said.

As for the letter from the minority, Attao said that he will be sending the request to existing committees for further review.

"We should allow the expert enti-

REWARD

From Page 1

for any individual who provides critical information that results in a successful federal prosecution of an individual or set of individuals who violate the federal law against animal fighting. The rewards program will run for an indefinite time and will concentrate on the U.S. territories.

Cockfighting is already illegal in the 50 states in the U.S. mainland. It became illegal in five U.S. territories—American Samoa, the CNMI, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands—in the 2018 farm bill that President Donald Trump signed into law at the end of 2018.

Cockfighting will be outlawed in all U.S. territories starting Dec. 20, 2019.

The website www.endcockfighting.org will serve as a comprehensive resource about the issue and call citizens to action to help.

If you have information about illegal cockfighting activities, citizens

can send tips and other information to animalcrueltytips@animalwellnessaction.org.

You can also consider contacting the U.S. Attorney's Office or the Office of the Attorney General, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Office of Inspector General at 1-800-424-9121, or the Environment and Natural Resources Division of the U.S. Department of Justice.

Chanel Cruz Jarrett, a former Miss Guam and an anti-cockfighting spokesperson for the Animal Wellness Foundation, said, "I am convinced the people of Guam care about animals and want to see the winding down of cockfighting on our beautiful island. ... We are an appealing destination for people across the Pacific Rim and it's time to remove the stigma of any form of animal cruelty [in] Guam."

Ana Maria Hernandez, an animal law attorney in Puerto Rico and a spokesperson for the Animal Wellness Foundation, said that cockfighting "does not represent the true values of Puerto Rico and it is a great relief that it will end on our island. ... The people of

Puerto Rico abhor animal cruelty and want to see the end of cockfighting."

"I grew up [in] Guam, and I know the people of the territory care deeply about the wellbeing of animals and the rule of law," said Marion Look-Jameson, a board member with Animal Wellness Action. "Our organization will pay the rewards as necessary, but my hope is that we don't have to pay out a dime because every American will adhere to the law."

Federal agencies and officers have a duty to enforce our laws against the barbaric practices of cockfighting and dogfighting," said Wayne Pacelle of the Animal Wellness Foundation. "But their good works depend on the cooperation and alertness of citizens. We ask people who know about illegal animal fighting activities to help us stop these forms of cruelty."

The Animal Wellness Foundation is a Los Angeles-based private charitable organization. Animal Wellness Action is a Washington, D.C.-based 501(c)(4) organization. (*Saipan Tribune*)

WHAT THE LAW SAYS

Under the federal anti-animal fighting law (7 U.S.C. § 2156), it is a crime to:

- Knowingly sponsor or exhibit in an animal fighting venture;
- Knowingly attend an animal fighting venture, or knowingly cause an individual who has not attained the age of 16 to attend an animal fighting venture;
- Knowingly buy, sell, possess, train, transport, deliver, or receive any animal for purposes of having the animal participate in an animal fighting venture;
- Knowingly use the mail service of the U.S. Postal Service, or any "written, wire, radio televisions or other form of communications in, or use a facility of, interstate commerce," to advertise an animal for use in an animal fighting venture, or to advertise a knife, gaff, or other sharp instrument designed to be attached to the leg of a bird for use in an animal fighting venture;
- Knowingly sell, buy, transport, or deliver in interstate or foreign commerce "a knife, a gaff, or any other sharp instrument" designed or intended to be attached to the leg of a bird for use in an animal fighting venture.

Penalties for each violation of any one of these provisions allows for a maximum of five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine for perpetrators, except for an adult attending an animal fighting venture. Penalties for an adult attendee are one year in prison and a \$5,000 fine.

An "animal fighting venture" in-

volves a fight conducted or to be conducted between at least two animals for purposes of sport, wagering, or entertainment.

Prohibitions on attending on selling, buying, possessing, training, transporting, delivering, or receiving an animal in an animal fighting venture; attending an animal fighting venture; or trafficking in knives or gaffs for use on a bird have long applied to all U.S. territories. On Dec. 20, 2019, these prohibitions are effective in the U.S. territories: sponsoring or exhibiting an animal in an animal fighting venture or knowing using the mail service of the U.S. Postal Service, or advertising an animal for use in a fighting venture, to advertise a knife or gaff, or to promote an animal fighting venture. (PR)

ADMINISTRATION

From Page 1

nor and the Department of Finance. None of the documents in question were leaked or discovered in secrecy. They were, without hesitation, furnished to the requestor in accordance with the OGA. All information is public, and communication between the governor, the Legislature and the public is open and available through the OGA, which has been abided by the administration and will continue to be so.

"At the heart of this entire issue is a coordinated attack—months in the making—by the House minority and their supporters who are disgruntled by an election outcome unfavorable to them, and individuals of questionable character posing as a Guam-based news outlet.

"Instead of focusing on the most

pressing issues that impact our families and villages, like growing our economy, stabilizing our finance, funding education and healthcare, winning the 'War on Ice,' and ensuring the public's safety and security, the House minority are using their time and efforts to divert attention from their lackluster legislative record toward a governor they refuse to accept as having won the votes of the people in an unprecedented margin.

"2019 was a very challenging year for the CNMI and this administration fully understands how it has affected families and residents because of forces beyond its control.

"Before Super Typhoon Yutu in October 2018, Gov. Torres worked to grow the economy to its highest levels in decades and worked tirelessly to prevent it from collapse by saving the CW program, which ensures U.S. workers keep their jobs in critical industries, keeps families

of every background together, and raises wages for everyone. Gov. Torres worked to revitalize our historic Japanese tourism market by bringing in Skymark Airlines, the first Japan-based carrier since 2005. He also worked to ensure law enforcement officers' salaries were increased so they can continue to go out and protect the villages.

"At the Governor's Office and in our departments and agencies, the work hasn't stopped. The administration remains focused on serving the public, rebuilding our islands, and continuing the goal of bettering the quality of life for everyone who calls the Marianas home. It's beyond politics, and we will not waver from that goal. With today's request, the House minority and their supporters want to further divide our community because of politics that seeks to disrupt a vision of a stronger and more prosperous Marianas." (PR)

MARTIAL

From Page 1

a commercial district and communities in Marawi city starting May 23, 2017, in the worst security crisis Duterte has faced.

Troops quelled the disastrous siege

after five months of intense airstrikes and ground offensives with the help of American and Australian surveillance aircraft, but congress approved an extension of martial law in Mindanao three times after Duterte warned that militants continued to recruit fighters and plot attacks.

Duterte decided not to further ex-

tend martial law, which expires at the end of the year, after his defense and security advisers provided an assessment that "the terrorist and extremist rebellion" has been weakened with the losses of the militants' leaders and a drop in crime in the region, presidential spokesman Salvador Panelo said.

Alleged overstaying tourist intercepted

Federal Protective Service inspector Sean White intercepted last week another alleged overstaying tourist who was able to obtain a CNMI driver's license through fraud.

Huangqi Wu, a Chinese national, was subsequently arrested on charges of producing a fraudulently obtained identification document to law enforcement personnel.

Wu was taken before U.S. District Court for the NMI Magistrate Judge Heather L. Kennedy for his initial appearance Monday afternoon. Colin M. Thompson appeared as his counsel.

According to Homeland Security Investigations Task Force officer Cristin Duenas, White did a traffic stop on a vehicle being operated by Wu at the Marina Heights Building II in Puerto Rico for an alleged "code of federal regulation violation."

In his affidavit, Duenas said that Wu presented a CNMI driver's license to White as his form of identification. White then asked HSI to run a system check on the license to see if it has any outstanding warrants. Duenas said the Department of Homeland Security system identified Wu as a citizen of the People's Republic of China who had overstayed his CNMI-on-

ly conditional parole.

Wu's license, which is believed to have been obtained using a fraudulent immigration document, was turned over to an HSI Task Force officer once White was done issuing his citation.

Duenas said that, at the HSI office, Wu was fingerprinted and photographed and, through biometric comparison, his identity was confirmed.

DHS records confirmed that Wu entered the CNMI on Sept. 27, 2016, and was granted a CNMI-only conditional parole by U.S. Customs and Border Protection that was effective until Sept. 30, 2016.

Duenas said Wu overstayed his authorized parole date and is therefore subject to being deported.

The Department of Public Safety's Bureau of Motor Vehicles provided the HSI Task Force officer with Wu's driver's license, operator's permit application form dated July 30, 2018, copies of his PRC driver's license, PRC passport, U.S. immigration form I-797A, and other documents.

According to DHS systems, Duenas said, the receipt number listed on the I-797A form was valid but registered to another individual and not assigned to Wu.

Duenas said records check conducted on Wu's name and date of birth revealed no immigration petition.

"Based on these results it was determined that the I-797A submitted with the July 30, 2018 driver's license application was fraudulent," he said.

Duenas said that during their interview with the help of a Mandarin interpreter, Wu admitted that he had overstayed his parole and that he is currently illegally present in the U.S.

Wu allegedly stated he needed a driver's license in order for him to work in the CNMI.

The defendant allegedly explained that he couldn't get a driver's license because of his immigration status. Wu allegedly asked a known conspirator to help him get a driver's license.

Wu denied making the fraudulent I-797 immigration form that was used to obtain his CNMI driver's license.

Duenas said the defendant claimed that he paid a "known conspirator" 2,100 RMB or approximately \$300 for assistance in getting his license.

After submitting the driver's license application with the fraudulent I-797 form, BMV issued Wu a CNMI driver's license. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)



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WHEN: WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2019

TIME: 10:00AM TO 3:00PM

Please call 237-9900 for more details.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration (EDA) is considering a request for Federal assistance from Northern Marianas College (NMC) to construct a Workforce Development & Training Center in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), EDA is conducting an assessment of the potential of the proposed project to affect the environment and/or historic properties.

The project involves the construction of the three-story Workforce Development & Training Center. The proposed facility will house NMC's Center for Training and Innovation which provides non-degree training programs and facilitates collaborative partner programs with other agencies and universities. NMC's Nursing Program and Business Program will also be housed in the building. The proposed project aims to replace offices, classrooms, and laboratories permanently damaged as a result of the devastation of Super Typhoon Yutu in October 2018.

The project area will be located on the main NMC campus on the island of Saipan. The NMC property is comprised of 742,259 square feet and a perimeter of 3,615 feet. The proposed project site is located on the north-east corner of the property and will cover roughly 8,500 square feet. The proposed project site will be located entirely within the existing campus boundary. Project information is available for review at NMC's Community Development Institute (CDI) located in Building P.

If you have any information regarding potential impacts to environmental resources or historic properties associated with this proposed project, please provide it in writing to:

U.S. Department of Commerce
Economic Development Administration
Attn: Regional Environmental Officer
915 Second Avenue, Room 1890
Seattle, Washington 98174-1012
E-mail: RDefato@eda.gov

Comments received in the EDA Seattle Regional Office by 5:00 p.m. (Pacific Time) on December 26, 2019 will be considered. A copy of the NEPA/NHPA decisional document will be available upon request at the above EDA Regional Office.

Commonwealth Zoning Board Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, December 18, 2019

5:00 PM, Zoning Board Conference Rm, 2nd flr. Joeten Dandan Bldg.
Tel: 234-9661 • Fax: 234-9666 • www.zoning.gov.mp

A. Preliminary Matters

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of 11/20/2019 meeting minutes
5. Adoption of 11/26/2019 special meeting minutes
6. Public Comments (*not related to files for discussion under item B. Public Hearings*)

B. Public Hearings:

1. **Conditional Use Application #2019-4307:** Li Chen is proposing to occupy a structure to operate a Bed & Breakfast establishment. This use is classified as "Bed & Breakfast" and is permitted in the district as Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No 017 D 08 in China Town. This area is zoned as Village Residential.
2. **Conditional Use Application #2019-4533:** Vertical Aviation LLC is proposing to construct two helipads and a hangar/ warehouse to operate a heliport for its helicopters. This use is classified as "Heliport/ Helipad" and is permitted in the district as Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot Nos 117 D 11 and 117 D 13 in Puerto Rico. This area is zoned as Industrial.

C. Communication

D. Old Business

E. New Business

1. Operations Reports (Permitting & Enforcement)
2. Board decision/ action on Independent Services Contract for interim professional & technical support for the administration of the Zoning Office.
3. Board decision/ action on Job Vacancy Announcement (Zoning Administrator position)
4. Board decision/ action on Nuisance Abatement & Blighted Properties Maintenance Act of 2018 regulation for publishing in the Commonwealth Register

F. Executive (Closed) Session

G. Miscellaneous

- a. Other Matters
- b. Announcements
- c. Next Meeting

H. Adjourn

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the Board meeting, or if you require assistance, please contact the Acting Zoning Administrator, Yubert Alepuyo, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.).

/s/ Mariano Taitano, Zoning Board Chairman

Judge willing to clarify dismissal of lawsuit vs E-Land

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho is willing to entertain Vincent DLG Torres' motion to clarify his decision that dismissed the lawyer's claims in his lawsuit against E-Land World Ltd. and others.

Camacho issued a notice yesterday of his willingness to hear the issue after Torres filed a motion last Dec. 4 to ask the Superior Court for a determination whether or not it will entertain his request for clarification.

Following the judge's notice, the next step is for Torres, through counsel William Fitzgerald, to request that his

appeal be stayed or suspended in the CNMI Supreme Court and then remand the case to the Superior Court.

Last Aug. 26, Camacho ruled that Torres lacks standing to maintain claims for corporate harm as direct actions as such claim must be brought derivatively, regardless of the size of the corporation. Camacho

dismissed Torres' claims in his lawsuit.

A derivative action refers to a lawsuit brought by a shareholder of a corporation on behalf of the corporation to enforce or defend a legal right or claim.

Last Sept. 23, Torres, through Fitzgerald, filed a notice informing the Superior

Court that he plans to appeal Camacho's dismissal order to the CNMI Supreme Court. Torres sought a reversal of that dismissal.

The following day, Sept. 24, Torres filed a motion that seeks clarification whether the dismissal of the three claims is with prejudice or without prejudice and whether he will have an opportunity to file an amended complaint.

Dismissal with prejudice would bar Torres from re-filing the claims, while dismissal without prejudice would allow him to re-file them.

Since Torres had already appealed the dismissal to the CNMI, Camacho ruled that the trial court no longer has jurisdiction to address Torres' motion for clarification—a ruling that the CNMI Supreme Court deemed correct last Nov. 15, that Camacho no longer has jurisdiction to entertain Torres' motion.

Associate Justice John A. Manglona said the proper procedure was for Torres to

request a stay or suspend the proceedings in the high court pending Camacho's indication of his inclination to grant the motion for clarification, and then move to remand.

Torres is suing E-Land World Ltd. and several others for allegedly failing to provide a proper accounting, embarking upon a scheme to misappropriate business opportunities and funds, and negotiating loans over \$5 million without proper authorization.

Named as defendants in the lawsuit are E-Land World Ltd., Suwaso Corp., Micronesian Resort Inc., Jong-Ho Roh, Seong Min Kang, Ik Kyu Kim, Tae Ho Kim, Steve Hwang, Dennis Seo, and three unnamed co-defendants.

Torres remains a minority shareholder of Suwaso stock, holding a 15% ownership interest, according to court records.

E-Land is the majority shareholder of the Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort. Suwaso Corp. owns the golf resort.

Wespac offers 3 scholarships

The Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council and its Education Committee members announced yesterday the availability of up to three undergraduate or graduate scholarships for the 2020-2021 academic year.

These scholarships support the aspiration of American Samoa, Guam and the CNMI to build their capacity to effectively manage their fisheries and related resources through employment of their own people.

Students with strong ties to these territories are eligible for scholarships that cover the cost of tuition and fees and some

living expenses. However, for undergraduates, there is an expectation that the Free Application for Federal Student Aid will be completed early and Pell grants obtained so the relevant university's Financial Aid Office can determine the amount of aid needed.

Scholarship applications are due on March 2.

Funding for the scholarships comes in part from the NOAA Fisheries Pacific Islands Regional Office and Pacific Island Fisheries Science Center. For further details, contact Amy Vandehey at info@wpcouncil.org or phone (808) 522-8220. (PR)

What do red flags mean in beach advisories?

By IVA MAURIN
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Young members of a fishing group learned as much Saturday at the Head Start center on Capitol Hill, with a representative of the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality explaining the meaning of red flags in beach advisories and the impacts of water quality on fish and fishing in the CNMI.

Larry Maurin, BECQ water quality surveillance and non-point source program manager, emphasized with members of the Saipan Fishermen's Association's youth fishing club that water quality is important for fish and fish habitat.

"If it is unhealthy to go fishing for people, then people aren't going to want to go fishing. So we want to encourage people to fish and to keep fish healthy and keep fish habitat healthy," he said.

Through this partnership between SFA and BECQ, via its Division of Environmental Quality, the young fishermen learned about the processes that come with the monitoring of beaches, as well as in coming up with beach advisories. The importance of understanding red flags, particularly how it affects both people and the marine species were also discussed.

BECQ samples beaches and coastal areas in the CNMI for bacteria concentration. The standards they have are U.S. Environmental Protection Agency-recommended standards for bacteria.

"When we see bacteria levels that exceed the standards, it can be unsafe to come into contact with those waters, so you can become sick. If you



Members of the Saipan Fishermen's Association Youth Fishing Club listen as Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality's Larry Maurin speaks last Saturday at the Head Start center on Capitol Hill.

touch the water, especially if the water gets in your nose, mouth, ears, or cuts, it can cause rashes, skin infections, gastrointestinal illness, respiratory illness," Maurin said.

When the water quality results from a beach site or other monitored stream site exceed the standards, a "red flag" advisory is posted in the area, and announced in news, social media, and on the DEQ website.

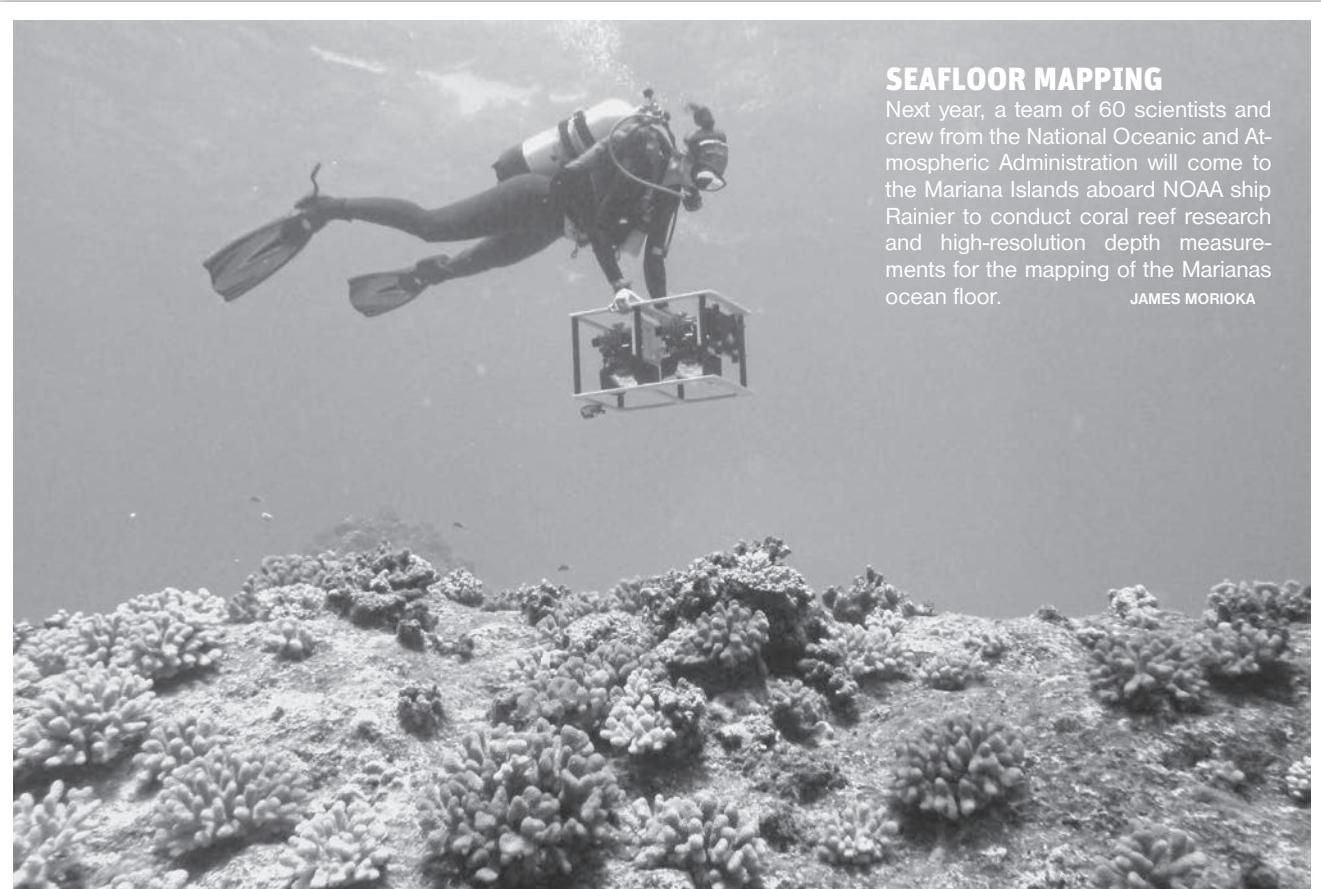
"A red flag is an advisory that tells the public that it may be unsafe to swim or fish in this area, so we advise the public not to swim or fish in the area for 48 hours after we post the red flag," he added.

BECQ advises the community to be aware of the adviso-

ries as they are posted to keep everyone healthy when going fishing, or going to the beach.

To be alerted to these advisories, check <http://deq.gov.mp>, <https://www.facebook.com/cnmi.waters/>, or join the email list via waterquality-report@becq.gov.mp.

Set to run for eight months, the SFA Youth Fishing program supports SFA's vision to give the youth an understanding of ocean preservation and the fishery industry in the CNMI. For more information, check SFA at <https://www.facebook.com/sfacnmi/>.



SEAFLOOR MAPPING

Next year, a team of 60 scientists and crew from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration will come to the Mariana Islands aboard NOAA ship Rainier to conduct coral reef research and high-resolution depth measurements for the mapping of the Marianas ocean floor.

JAMES MORIOKA

Scheduled power interruption tomorrow

There will be a scheduled power interruption tomorrow, Dec. 12, from 9am to 12pm affecting several areas in China Town.

The sectionalized outage on Kiya 3 will affect the Sugar King Road in China Town (Village Ln., Covenant Ln., Politic Ln., Freedom Drive, Convention Pl., Justice Pl., and Saina Pl.).

No water well service area or wastewater service area will be affected.

The purpose of this emergency power interruption is to de-energize utility lines and allow linemen of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to replace a rotted primary power pole in China Town. For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor its Facebook page for the latest updates (<https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/>). (PR)

Friday morning runs to start this Friday

In line with the Marianas Visitors Authority's Sports Islands promotion of the Marianas, Saipan Morning Run will be held every Friday morning at 8am in Garapan beginning on Friday, Dec. 13.

The 7.6K course will start at Grandvrio Resort Saipan lobby and run through American Memorial Park, Outer Cove Marine, and Gov. Eloy S. Inos Peace Park before returning to Grandvrio. The free event is

2 Guam bakeries found in violation of overtime law

DEDEDO, Guam—After an investigation by the U.S. Department of Labor's Wage and Hour Division, two Guam bakeries—New Fresh Bread Bakeshop in Dededo and Café Panadero in Yigo—will pay \$108,929 in back wages and liquidated damages to 20 employees for violations of the Fair Labor Standards Act's overtime requirements. WHD has also assessed \$7,535 in civil penalties against the employer.

WHD investigators found the bakeries and their owner, Zenaida Milano, failed to pay employees overtime at time-and-one-half their regular rates of pay when they worked beyond 40 hours in a workweek, as the law requires. Instead, Milano continued to pay employees their straight time rates for the overtime hours. The employer acknowledged not paying overtime, and told investigators that employees agreed with the arrangement in order to secure more hours of work.

"Federal law prohibits an employer from entering into any agreement with employees to waive their right to overtime pay," said Wage and Hour district director Terence Trotter in Honolulu, Hawaii. "Simply because an employee may agree to a particular arrangement does not make it legal. Our work to enforce these requirements ensures workers receive all the wages they have legally earned, and levels the playing field for employers."

The department offers numerous resources to ensure employers have the tools they need to understand their responsibilities and to comply with federal law, such as online videos, confidential calls, or in-person visits to local WHD offices. In addition, WHD provides employers with compliance assistance resources related to overtime to help them comply with the FLSA.

For more information about the FLSA and other laws enforced by the Wage and Hour Division, contact the division's toll-free helpline at 866-4US-WAGE (487-9243). Employers who discover overtime or minimum wage viola-

open to visitors and residents and is jointly organized by the MVA and Pacific Development Inc.

"The Saipan Morning Run is a fun, weekly fitness event that will bring visiting and resident runners together to enjoy the beautiful and clean environment The Marianas has to offer," said MVA marketing manager Thomas Kim. "We expect this to become a very popular event for visitors as it

grows, and we invite locals to join the run, as well. Everyone can show up and run!"

Instructors of the run will be local runners Ayano Braxton, a participant of numerous local races and Akiko Hagiwara, a former corporate team elite runner in Japan. The weekly run aims to increase awareness of the Marianas as a sports destination.

In Honolulu, a similar program called "SpoNavi Hawaii Group Running" meets every Saturday morning and has been running for the last decade. (MVA)



The Marianas Visitors Authority and Pacific Development Inc. will launch Saipan Morning Run every Friday beginning on Dec. 13, 2019. The 7.6K free run, beginning and ending at Grandvrio Resort Saipan, will be instructed by Akiko Hagiwara, left, and Ayano Braxton and is open to visitors and residents.

MVA

TINIAN CASINO GAMING CONTROL COMMISSION

Municipality of Tinian and Aguijan
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission (TCGCC) hereby gives notice that it will hold its Regular Meeting on Monday, December 16, 2019, at 9:00 a.m. at the TCGCC Conference Room. This meeting was originally scheduled for Wednesday, November 27, 2019; however, it was postponed due to inclement weather.

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY

- a. Call to Order
- b. Roll Call
- c. Adoption of Agenda
- d. Adoption of Minutes
- 1. October 31, 2019 – Regular Meeting

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS¹

III. REPORTS

- a. Chair's Report
- b. Executive Director's Report

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. Review of By-Laws
- b. Licensing Matters
 - 1. Tinian Entertainment Company
 - 2. Alter City Group, Inc.
 - 3. Request of Clear Management, Ltd.

V. NEW BUSINESS

- a. TCGCC Resolution No. 19-001
- b. TCGCC Resolution No. 19-002

VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION²

VII. MISCELLANEOUS/ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

¹Public Comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to 3 minutes. Everyone is welcome to submit written comments.
²Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Commission may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

) Civil Action
IN THE MATTER) No. 19-0359-CV
OF THE ESTATE)
OF) NOTICE OF HEARING
JULIANA) ON PETITION FOR
ROMOLOR ILO,) LETTERS OF
Deceased,) ADMINISTRATION
Deceased,) AND NOTICE
TO CREDITORS) TO CREDITORS

TO: ALL HEIRS, DEVISEES, LEGATEES AND CREDITORS OF: JULIANAROMOLOR ILO, DECEASED

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the co-petition of JESUS P. TAITANO and AUGUSTIN L. TAITANO for the issuance of letters of administration of this estate will be heard before the Honorable Joseph N. Camacho, Presiding/Associate Judge, on the 9TH day of January, 2020, at 10:00 a.m., at the Marianas Business Plaza, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All persons interested are hereby notified to appear at the hearing and show cause, if any, why the order should not be made.

For further particulars, please refer to the Petition on file herein, or contact counsel for Petitioner, Joey P. San Nicolas, P.O. Box 10,001 PMB 602, Saipan, MP 96950; telephone (670) 234-7659 and email jpsn@annicolaslaw.net.

Pursuant to Rule 21, NMI R. Prob. P, notice is hereby given to all creditors of the decedent, JULIANA ROMOLOR ILO, or of her estate, that they must file their claims with the Clerk of the Superior Court, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, within sixty (60) days of the first publication of this Notice, or the claims will be forever barred.

Dated this 3rd day of December, 2019.

Patrick V. Diaz, Clerk of Court
By: Deputy Clerk of Court



Board of Trustees Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
1 Lower Navy Hill Road Navy Hill, Saipan, MP 96950



Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9911, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation hereby gives notice that a Special meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held Thursday, December 12, 2019 at 7:45 am in the CEO's Conference Room 3 located at the Administrative Offices.

CHCC Board of Trustees Special Meeting
December 12, 2019 at 7:30 am

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
- II. Determination of Quorum
- III. Approval of Agenda
- IV. To vote and approve Applications for Privileges:

New Applicants:

1. Dr. David Borge
2. Dr. Julian Janssen
3. Dr. Thuy Trang Nguyen
4. Pamela White, NP
5. Edward White, NP

Renewal Applicants:

6. Dr. John Tudela

V. Adjournment

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING for Li Chen

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Li Chen is proposing to occupy a structure to operate a Bed & Breakfast establishment. This use is classified as "Bed & Breakfast" and is permitted in the district as Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No 017 D 08 in China Town. This area is zoned as Village Residential.

A public hearing will be held on:

Date: Wednesday, December 18, 2019
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Zoning Conf. Room,
2nd floor Joeten Dandan Comm'l Bldg.

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 3:00 pm, December 17, 2019. Please send written comments via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Mariano Taitano, Chairman

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 3:00 pm, December 17, 2019. Please send written comments via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Mariano Taitano, Chairman



IVA MAURIN

CHRISTMAS VILLAGE

Miss Marianas 2019 Shannon Sasamoto, right, and Miss Earth Northern Marianas 2019 Leisha De Leon Guerrero, left, flank some of the children who attended the lighting ceremony for the 2019 Christmas Village last Saturday at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS**Traffic hearings set**

All parties with traffic citation(s) scheduled for hearing (arraignment) during the following dates will be held at the stated sites:

■ Thursday, Dec. 12: Marianas Business Plaza, second floor, Courtroom 212B

■ Thursday, Dec. 19: Marianas Business Plaza, second floor, Courtroom 212B

■ Thursday Dec. 26: Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center

For additional information, contact the Office of the Clerk of Court at telephone number 236-9703, 783-8417, or 783-8522. (PR)

NMC info session tonight

Individuals who are interested in furthering their education are encouraged to attend Northern Marianas College's free information session tonight, Dec. 11, 2019. In addition to the admission process, college personnel will talk about financial aid options that are available for the spring 2019 semester.

The info session will be held from 5:30pm to 6:30pm at NMC's Olympio T. Borja Library at the college's As Terlaje campus.

Attendees will qualify to have their application fee and their placement test fees waived for NMC's upcoming spring 2020 semester, a savings of about \$75.

The first day of classes will be on Jan. 21, 2020, but interested applicants are encouraged to apply early to register for courses and for financial aid.

For more information about registering for classes for the upcoming spring 2020 semester or to apply for admission, contact the NMC Office of Admissions and Records at 237-6768/6769/6771 or visit www.marianas.edu. (NMC)

Chamoru commission meeting set

The Kumisiñ i Fino' CHAM-

oru yan i Fina'nå'guen i Historia yan i Lina'lá' i Taotao Tåno' (*Commission on Chamoru Language and the Teaching of the History and Culture of the Indigenous People of Guam*) will hold its second December monthly meeting on Dec. 19, 2019, Thursday, from 2:30pm to 5pm at the Guam Museum conference room in Hågåtña. Call Kumisiñ secretary Roland Blas for special accommodations and agenda at 480-4047 or email at rolandblas1973@gmail.com. (PR)

Homeless prevention coalition meeting

The CNMI Homeless Prevention Coalition will be having its general membership meeting today, Dec. 11, 2019, starting at 10am, at the Division of Youth Services conference room in Chalan Piao (next to the Bank of Guam). For more information, contact Geninne Bliss at (670) 237-1000 or Jacob Muñoz at (670) 234-6866/9447. (PR)

US military trainings

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. Navy will conduct helicopter training in Dandan-Malojloj from 11am to 11:55pm today and tomorrow, Dec. 11 and 12.

Naval special warfare units will conduct anti-terrorism training in Radio Barrigada from 11am to 5pm today, Dec. 11. Training ammunition will be used during this training. Residents in surrounding areas should not be alarmed if they see or hear increased activity associated with the trainings.

Helicopter Sea-Combat Squadron 25 will conduct embassy reinforcement training in Radio Barrigada from 6pm to 11pm today, Dec. 11. During these trainings, blanks will be used. Residents in surrounding areas again should not be alarmed if they see or hear increased activity associated with the trainings.

For Project Management Professionals, Guam PTAC workshops may count toward your annual Professional Development Unit goals.

Register at <http://guamptac.com/news-and-events.php>, or call/email Therese at 735-2552/admin@guamptac.com.

Walk-ins are welcome. (PR)

Judge consolidates contractor's suit, lien application vs IPI

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona consolidated Monday the lawsuit filed against Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC by its former contractor and its application for a mechanic's lien.

Manglona gave the order to consolidate the two after deeming it to be in the interest of judicial economy and after determining that the two cases arise from the same facts and raise the same legal arguments.

Last Sept. 20, Pacific Rim Land Development sued IPI for breach of contract. Pacific Rim subsequently filed an application for a mechanic's lien on IPI's hotel-casino project and on the land it sits on.

A mechanic's lien refers to

a security interest in the title to property for the benefit of those who have supplied labor or materials that improve the property.

Last Dec. 3, Manglona dismissed the lawsuit after finding that Pacific Rim had not established jurisdiction; however, she allowed the contractor to amend its complaint.

Manglona also denied Pacific Rim's application for a mechanic's lien, but allowed the contractor to amend it.

Last Dec. 4, Pacific Rim filed its amended complaint and an amended application for a mechanic's lien. That same day, the company also filed an application for a mechanic's lien against IPI in a new proceeding.

In her order consolidating the two, Manglona said that, while both cases are not

identical, the applications for the lien involves the same construction project, the same property, and the same parties.

Citing Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, Manglona said a district court has broad discretion to consolidate actions involving "common issues of law or fact."

Manglona was set to hear yesterday afternoon Pacific Rim's application for a mechanic's lien.

Pacific Rim is suing IPI and five unnamed alleged co-conspirators for breach of contract (construction and promissory note) and unjust enrichment.

Pacific Rim claimed to have substantially completed or completed the agreed upon construction work for IPI's casino-resort project on Sept. 30, 2018.

IPI allegedly owe Pacific Rim \$5.65 million.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

December 11, 1998**MVA urged to cast light on local culture**

The Marianas Visitors Authority should develop a master plan that will highlight the historical and cultural significance of the various tourist sites on the island, according to the Tourist Site Development Committee. When tourist visit each of the 57 tourist sites, Felix Sablan, field operations manager, said they should find information on these places to give them an interpretation of the local people's heritage. Members of the committee unanimously approved the proposal to carry out a comprehensive plan to develop the different sites.

Payless paydays?

We know that the announcement of the likely payless payday (there are three government paydays this month) by the governor isn't a trial balloon nor a facade to jolt the senses of government employees who seem indifferent to current economic conditions and its relationship to their jobs. It is as real as you wanted to be. The revenue plunge in double digit figures tells it all. The people who work the clock in the private sector have sought assistance from the local government in order to muddle through these difficult times. But there doesn't seem to be any sense of urgency to listen to their sentiments.

December 11, 2000**Two new hotels to rise in Garapan**

Two new hotels will rise in the

tourist district of Garapan as immediate result of the newly-signed law granting tax breaks to investments in the CNMI, according to a major proponent of the economic incentive program. House floor leader Oscar M. Babauta, main sponsor of Public Law 12-32, said these two big projects are expected to boost the islands' economy following more than three years of stagnant growth. One of the new investments will be a floating hotel to be built across from the Kristo Rai church, while the other will be a high-rise hotel on the property across the DFS Galleria that used to be the Samoan housing, he said.

WSR receives recognition

For retaining its high-standard quality of educational services affirmed by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, William S. Reyes Elementary School was presented by the Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council a resolution hailing the school's recent accomplishments. WSR gained a six-year accreditation from WASC last June after undergoing careful evaluation from a team of visiting accreditation members. WASC's affirmation was the second stamp of approval obtained by the school after it had received a three-year accreditation status from the same accrediting institution on Spring of 1997.

December 11, 2004**Woman gets 10 years in DUI conviction**

In a strong message against

drunk driving, Superior Court judge David Wiseman on Friday handed down the maximum 10-year prison sentence against a woman who was convicted of homicide by vehicle and driving under the influence of alcohol. Wiseman, however, suspended the 10-year prison term for the vehicular homicide conviction, except for three years, giving credit to the 61 days Micheline West Brel had already served in jail. He also recommended to the executive branch to allow the defendant to be admitted to work release so she could make restitution payments to the victim's family, as well as fines and payments to the court. For Brel's DUI conviction, the judge imposed the maximum one-year imprisonment term and \$1,000-fine, suspending the woman's driver's license for one year.

Landlord sues ex-tenant over unpaid rent

A company engaged in leasing out commercial property in Garapan has filed a lawsuit against its former tenant over alleged nonpayment of rent. In a complaint filed with the Superior Court, Merci Corp. asked the court to compel EUN Corp. to pay it unpaid rent amounting to \$7,196, as well as costs incidental to the filing of the suit. Merci's attorney, John D. Osborn, said the defendant company failed to pay monthly rent from February to May earlier this year, before vacating the leased commercial space sometime last June. The complaint said that the parties entered into a lease agreement on March 1, 2003 for EUN's lease of a commercial space at the ground floor of the May Ten building in Garapan. The agreement provided a lease term from March 1, 2003 to Feb. 28, 2004, it said.

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

COMPANY: IMPERIAL PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL (CNMI), LLC

JOB TITLE: Construction Carpenter

NUMBER OF OPENING: 350

OPENING DATE: December 09, 2019

WAGES/SALARY: \$15.48 to \$28.95 per hour / Overtime Rate: \$23.22 to \$43.42 per hour

EMPLOYMENT BASIS & DURATION

This job opportunity is for a temporary, full-time position beginning on January 31, 2020 and ending on January 30, 2021.

JOB LOCATION

Imperial Palace – Saipan, CPL Derence Jack Road, Orchid Street, Garapan, Saipan, MP 96950

JOB DUTIES

- Follow established safety rules and regulations and maintain a safe and clean environment
- study specifications in blueprints, sketches, or building plans to prepare project layout and determine dimensions and materials required
- measure and mark cutting lines on materials, using a ruler, pencil, chalk, and marking gauge
- shape or cut materials to specified measurements, using hand tools, machines, or power saws
- install structures or fixtures, such as windows, frames, floors, trim, or hardware, using carpenters' hand or power tools
- verify truthiness of structure, using plumb bob and level
- select and order lumber or other required materials
- arrange for subcontractors to deal with special areas, such as heating or electrical wiring work
- maintain records, document actions, and present written progress reports
- build or repair cabinets, doors, frameworks, floors, or other wooden fixtures used in buildings, using woodworking machines, carpenters' hand tools, or power tools
- erect scaffolding or ladders for assembling or ladders for assembling structure above ground levels
- inspect ceiling or floor tile, wall coverings, siding, glass, or woodwork to detect broken or damaged structures
- assemble and fasten materials to make frameworks or props, using hand tools and wood screws, nails, dowel pins, or glue
- remove damaged or defective parts or sections of structures and repair or replace, using hand tools
- finish surfaces of woodwork or wallboard in houses or buildings, using paint, hand tools, or paneling
- apply shock-absorbing, sound-deadening, or decorative paneling to ceilings or walls
- cover subfloors with building paper to keep out moisture and lay hardwood, parquet, or wood-strip floor floors to mastic or asphalt base
- fill cracks or other defects in plaster or plasterboard and sand patch, using patching plaster, trowel, and sanding tool
- perform minor plumbing, welding or concrete mixing work
- prepare cost estimates for clients and employers
- construct forms or chutes for pouring concrete
- work with or remove hazardous material

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

High school diploma or above. 12 months of on-the-job experience as a Construction Carpenter is a minimum requirement for this position.

WORK HOURS

Employees hired under this announcement will work on full time employment thirty-five (35) hours per week. There are three rotating shifts per day. (A) Day Shift will be from 6:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. (B) Swing Shift will be from 2:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. (C) Night Shift will be from 10:00 p.m. until 6:00 a.m. Employee hired under this announcement will be rotated through each of the three shifts

SINGLE WORKWEEK FOR PAY

The employer will use a single workweek as its standard for computing wages due.

FREQUENCY OF PAY

Workers will be paid on bi-weekly basis.

HOUSING & MEAL

The employer will provide optional housing at no cost per week, during the employment. The employees will be provided one (1) duty meal per day at no expense for the duration of the employment.

DEDUCTIONS

The employer will make all deductions from the employee's paycheck required by laws.

INBOUND/OUTBOUND TRANSPORTATION AND SUBSISTENCE

The Employer shall pay for all inbound transportation and subsistence from the place of recruitment to the place of work. Upon completion of the work contract, or where the worker is dismissed earlier, the employer will provide or pay for worker's reasonable costs of return transportation and subsistence back home or to the place the worker originally departed to work, except where the worker will not return due to subsequent employment with another employer or where the employer has appropriately reported a worker's voluntary abandonment of employment. Travel subsistence starts with the rate of \$12.46 per day up to a maximum of \$55.00 with receipts.

DAILY TRANSPORTATION

The employer will provide daily transportation at no charge to and from the worker's provided lodging for the duration of the employment.

FIRST WORK WEEK REIMBURSEMENT

Workers will be reimbursed in the first workweek for all visa, visa processing, border crossing, and other related fees, including those mandated by the government (except passport fees).

THREE-FOURTHS GUARANTEE

Workers will be offered employment for a total number of work hours equal to at least three fourths of the workdays of the total period that begins with the first workday after the arrival of the worker at the place of employment or the advertised contractual fist date of need, whichever is later, and ends on the expiration date specified in the work contract or in its extensions, if any.

PROVISION OF TOOLS, SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT

The employer will provide workers at no charge all tools, supplies, and equipment required to perform the job. Furthermore, the employer will supply workers at no charge all safety clothing and equipment and will require all workers to wear such clothing and equipment always during work.

COMPANY: IMPERIAL PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL (CNMI), LLC

JOB TITLE: Construction Laborer

NUMBER OF OPENING: 95

OPENING DATE: December 09, 2019

WAGES/SALARY: \$11.03 to \$15.00 per hour / Overtime Rate: \$16.55 to \$22.50 per hour

EMPLOYMENT BASIS & DURATION

This job opportunity is for a temporary, full-time position beginning on January 31, 2020 and ending on January 30, 2021.

JOB LOCATION

Imperial Palace – Saipan, CPL Derence Jack Road, Orchid Street, Garapan, Saipan, MP 96950

JOB DUTIES

- Control traffic passing near, in, or around work zones
- clean or prepare construction sites to eliminate possible hazards
- signal equipment operators to facilitate alignment, movement, or adjustments of machinery, or materials
- read plans, instructions, or specifications to determine work activities
- load, unload, or identify building materials, machinery, or tools, distributing them to the appropriate locations, according to project plans or specifications
- measure, mark, or record openings or distances to layout areas where construction work will be performed
- dig ditches or trenches, backfill excavations, or compact and level earth to grade specifications, using picks, shovels, pneumatic tampers, or rakes
- mix, pour, or spread concrete, using portable cement mixers
- tend pumps, compressors, or generators to provide power for tools, machinery, or equipment or heat or move materials such as asphalt
- erect or dismantle scaffolding, shoring, braces, traffic barricades, ramps or other temporary structures
- provide assistance to craft workers, such as carpenters, plasterers or masons
- lubricate, clean, or repair machinery, equipment and tools
- position or dismantle form for pouring concrete, using saws, hammers, nails or bolts
- smooth or finish freshly poured cement or concrete, using float, trowels, screeds, or powered cement finishing tools
- operate jackhammers or drills to break up concrete or pavement
- install sewer, water, or storm drain pipes, using pipe-laying machinery or laser guidance equipment
- operate or maintain air monitoring or other sampling devices in confined or hazardous environments
- mix ingredients to create compounds for covering or clearing surfaces
- grind, scraze, sand and polish surfaces, such as concrete, marble, terrazzo, or wood flooring, using polishers or machines
- position, join, align or seal structural components, such as concrete wall sections or pipes
- tend machinery that pump concrete, grout, cement, sand, plaster, or stucco through spray guns for application to ceilings or walls
- spray materials, such as water, sand, steam, vinyl, paint, or stucco, through hoses to clean, coat, or seal surfaces
- apply caulking compounds by hand or caulking guns to protect against entry of water or air
- mop, brush, or spray paints, cleaning solutions, or other compounds over surfaces to clean them or to provide protection
- perform the activities required of green certified construction practices, such as implementing waste management procedures, identifying materials for reuse, or installing erosion or sedimentation control mechanisms
- apply weather-stripping to reduce energy loss

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

High school diploma or above. 12 months of on-the-job experience as a Construction Laborer is a minimum requirement for this position.

WORK HOURS

Employees hired under this announcement will work on full time employment thirty-five (35) hours per week. There are three rotating shifts per day. (A) Day Shift will be from 6:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. (B) Swing Shift will be from 2:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. (C) Night Shift will be from 10:00 p.m. until 6:00 a.m. Employee hired under this announcement will be rotated through each of the three shifts

SINGLE WORKWEEK FOR PAY

The employer will use a single workweek as its standard for computing wages due.

FREQUENCY OF PAY

Workers will be paid on bi-weekly basis.

HOUSING & MEAL

The employer will provide optional housing at no cost per week, during the employment. The employees will be provided one (1) duty meal per day at no expense for the duration of the employment.

DEDUCTIONS

The employer will make all deductions from the employee's paycheck required by laws.

INBOUND/OUTBOUND TRANSPORTATION AND SUBSISTENCE

The Employer shall pay for all inbound transportation and subsistence from the place of recruitment to the place of work. Upon completion of the work contract, or where the worker is dismissed earlier, the employer will provide or pay for worker's reasonable costs of return transportation and subsistence back home or to the place the worker originally departed to work, except where the worker will not return due to subsequent employment with another employer or where the employer has appropriately reported a worker's voluntary abandonment of employment.

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

Travel subsistence starts with the rate of \$12.46 per day up to a maximum of \$55.00 with receipts.

DAILY TRANSPORTATION

The employer will provide daily transportation at no charge to and from the worker's provided lodging for the duration of the employment.

FIRST WORK WEEK REIMBURSEMENT

Workers will be reimbursed in the first workweek for all visa, visa processing, border crossing, and other related fees, including those mandated by the government (except passport fees).

THREE-FOURTHS GUARANTEE

Workers will be offered employment for a total number of work hours equal to at least three fourths of the workdays of the total period that begins with the first workday after the arrival of the worker at the place of employment or the advertised contractual fist date of need, whichever is later, and ends on the expiration date specified in the work contract or in its extensions, if any.

PROVISION OF TOOLS, SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT

The employer will provide workers at no charge all tools, supplies, and equipment required to perform the job. Furthermore, the employer will supply workers at no charge all safety clothing and equipment and will require all workers to wear such clothing and equipment always during work.

COMPANY: IMPERIAL PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL (CNMI), LLC

JOB TITLE: Crane and Tower Operator

NUMBER OF OPENING: 5

OPENING DATE: December 09, 2019

WAGES/SALARY: \$21.52 to \$32.28 per hour / Overtime Rate: \$32.28 to \$48.42 per hour

EMPLOYMENT BASIS & DURATION

This job opportunity is for a temporary, full-time position beginning on January 31, 2020 and ending on January 30, 2021.

JOB LOCATION

Imperial Palace – Saipan, CPL Derence Jack Road, Orchid Street, Garapan, Saipan, MP 96950

JOB DUTIES

- Determine load weights and check them against lifting capacities to prevent overload
- Move levers, depress foot pedals, or turn dials to operate cranes, cherry pickers, electromagnets, or other moving equipment for lifting, moving, or placing loads
- Inspect and adjust crane mechanisms or lifting accessories to prevent malfunctions or damage
- Direct helpers engaged in placing blocking or outrigger under cranes
- Clean, lubricate, and maintain mechanisms such as cables, pulleys, or grapping devices, making repairs as necessary
- Load or unload bundles from trucks or move containers to storage bins, using moving equipment
- Review daily work or delivery schedules to determine orders, sequences of deliveries, or special loading instructions
- Inspect bundle packaging for conformance to regulations or customer requirements and remove and batch packaging tickets
- Direct truck drivers backing vehicles into loading bays and cover, uncover, or secure loads for delivery
- Weigh bundles, using floor scales, and record weights for company records

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

High school diploma or above. 24 months of on-the-job experience as a Crane and Tower Operator is a minimum requirement for this position.

WORK HOURS

Employees hired under this announcement will work on full time employment thirty-five (35) hours per week. There are three rotating shifts per day. (A) Day Shift will be from 6:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. (B) Swing Shift will be from 2:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. (C) Night Shift will be from 10:00 p.m. until 6:00 a.m. Employee hired under this announcement will be rotated through each of the three shifts

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COMPANY: IMPERIAL PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL (CNMI), LLC

JOB TITLE: Electrician

NUMBER OF OPENING: 170

OPENING DATE: December 09, 2019

WAGES/SALARY: \$18.52 to \$28.95 per hour / Overtime Rate: \$27.78 to \$43.4

Opinion

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Just the facts with maps: Google and Apple shouldn't bend to Russia's will

If you're searching for a forecast in Crimea on your Google or Apple weather and map apps, you may get confused about where, exactly, you are.

Conceding to Russian demands, Apple and Google edited their apps so that users in Crimea see a map that shows they are in Russia, not Ukraine.

Russia may be illegally occupying the Ukrainian border peninsula on the north side of the Black Sea, but Crimea is hardly Russian. And American tech companies should not be in the business of shiftily helping the Russians make it seem so.

Russia invaded Crimea in 2014 and still is under international sanctions because of it.

Users anywhere but Crimea and Russia using Google and Apple apps will sometimes see maps showing the territory is Ukrainian and sometimes see it identified as neither Russian nor Ukrainian, as if the companies are aiming for some kind of neutral nondistinction.

The varying maps are the result of Russian authorities demanding global tech companies recognize what the world's nations will not—that it has legitimately annexed Crimea.

For its part, Ukraine and its embassy officials in the United States have complained about the American companies capitulating to Russia's demands.

Apple officials recently responded to the controversy by saying it will "take a deeper look" at how it handles disputed borders in its maps and other apps. When it does, Apple should base its policy on the rule of international law rather than the pressure of thugish regimes.

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The need to right our ship of state

By JOSE S. DELA CRUZ
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

About two weeks ago, the U.S. District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands issued, at the request of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, search warrants with respect to the office of Gov. Ralph Torres, the Torres Brothers LLC law firm, the Legend Realty real estate company, and the financial office of Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC on Saipan, among others. The federal district court issued the search warrants. It apparently determined that there was probable cause that certain federal criminal laws were violated.

The FBI is presumably reviewing now the results of the searches and seizures conducted on the various premises stated in the search warrant. It would then determine whether federal criminal laws were violated. If the FBI determines that federal laws were violated by certain individuals, firms and/or companies, then it would empanel a grand jury to consider issuing criminal indictments against those individuals and firms who violated the federal criminal laws at issue.

The truly sad and shameful thing about these federal criminal investigations by the FBI into the activities and affairs of the CNMI government is that it raises, once again, the fundamental issue regarding the ability and competency of CNMI government leaders, both elected and appointed, to govern our islands effectively. It raises once again the specter of local government corruption that lies at the heart of these FBI investigations. Such investigations are indeed shameful and embarrassing, not just for the individuals and firms being investigated, but also for the people of the Northern Mariana Islands who elected our local leaders into public office.

For over 40 years now, the people of the CNMI still have not learned the basic lesson of the Commonwealth as a democratic institution: that in order for CNMI local self-government to progress and succeed, we have to elect to public office only those individuals who are capable and competent, and who first and foremost have the best interests of the people of the Commonwealth. We need to elect only those individuals who have a clear plan and vision to promote the welfare and wellbe-

ing of our people—leaders who are not going "to take the people of the Commonwealth for a ride." To date, we have neither learned nor practiced such fundamental aspect of democracy and good government.

I have been writing for many years now, urging the people of the Commonwealth to elect to public office only those individuals who are competent and capable; but the voters of the CNMI, for several decades now, apparently prefer to have as our leaders mostly individuals whose primary interest in holding public office is to benefit themselves and their business associates and cronies. Upon holding public office, the CNMI treasury becomes their personal fund, which they feel could be used as they see fit, even for personal and non-official expenses. We have seen over the past several decades many of our local government leaders, who have been indicted, convicted by the federal courts, and eventually sentenced to serve time in federal prison in the U.S. mainland. Every few years, federal corruption cases are brought against CNMI leaders. When are we going to learn our lesson? Is government corruption now a normal part of the way we practice local self-government?

Because it is we the voters of the Commonwealth, who for one reason or another, voted these individuals into public office; we are in a general sense also responsible for the corruption that takes place; and we should be embarrassed and ashamed.

It is my sincere hope that something good and positive will come out of the recent FBI investigations. It is my hope that, if in fact federal criminal laws were violated based on the searches conducted and seizures conducted by the FBI recently, the people of the Commonwealth will learn a fundamental lesson on democracy: that CNMI self-government will only be as good as the individuals we elect into public office. We should always remember that government corruption always gives a black eye to the entire Commonwealth. We must, therefore, begin to wean ourselves from the image and perception that the CNMI is a "Third World country" where corruption by local leaders is the way we practice self-government.

Jose S. Dela Cruz is a former chief justice of the CNMI Supreme Court.

Kontra kontra...

Suetdun i manma-elihe \$99,500 gi sakan. I empleau entre \$15-\$42-mit gi mismu tiempu. I difirensia \$47-mit pesos mas para i manma-elihe.

Kase 15-mit na empleau gumagana i segundu suetdu. Guaha areglu matatiye pat masaulag kinibrutu pot ti mana' presisu ha'anen empleau siha?

I disision mediou politika poresu na libianu ma-upus nesessidat pumalu. Kontra tai finagu' na mea culpa para empleau siha!

Hu rikonose lau taya areglu ni umadelanta suetdun tautau-ta siha. Lau manma-apapase mansabiu kanaha' \$100-mit gi sakan!

Haf che'chu' miyu komplidu ni umadelanta suetdun empleau siha? Haf na in' fatkeluye asuntun niha? Masge' finu' sattun gi inefresen miyu! Adahe na higadu para in' ipus sapet gi halum guma' familian empleau!

Guaha 29 na membron lehislatura yan lamegai gi sanlagu ya para ti in' li'e didog na sapet gi familia siha guine? Kau man-madulog hamyu endorfin na no siakassu ha'anen familia siha?

Siempre tali'e haf na disposition u guaha ginen i botadot gi hilu' in' hasñgun lumetke na nesessidat niha. Debi u todas i disision na biahe!

Kutturan

Guaha 'nai hahuñgug diniskuten kuttura gi tautau-ta siha. I palabro pot modun linala' natibu guine siha na petlas. Mauleg ta bisitan ñaihon para ta ketuñgu' i asuntu.

Kuttura i liñguahen natibu. Estague' sahyan linala'ta desde antes. Todu otru, kustumbe. I ma'ug los uttimo makonfitma kumu patte gi kuttura-ta. I tradision relihion i katolisismu.

Na'mamahlau 'an ti un' tuñgu' liñguahimu mismu kontodu matuge' na finu' Chamorro. Liñguahi-mu!

Sentimentu, pinadese yan diariu na disposition manma'udai gi galaide' liñguahen. Estague' na sahyan sumede adelantau na kinalamten natibu. Maseha adumididi' lau enfin man-felis hinanau-ta gi todou diariu na fina' chanda gi asunto-ta siha.

Our faltering social vitality

The economy is in robust good health, but our social fabric isn't.

By two basic measures of social vitality, births and deaths, American society is faltering. Both the fertility rate and life expectancy are declining, in a sign that people feel less secure and, in some cases, have no hope at all.

We are attuned to headline-grabbing economic statistics—GDP growth, the unemployment rate, wages—as monthly and quarterly metrics of American well-being, but they aren't as telling as these more fundamental indicators.

To put it bluntly, contemporary America is characterized by less pro-creation and more self-destruction. This suggests something is profoundly wrong with the state of the union, although it doesn't receive the attention and the debate it deserves.

The fertility rate in 2018 dropped for the fourth straight year. It has hit a record low, and has fallen 15% since 2007. With the recovery after the Great Recession, the rate bumped up a little in 2014 before receding again.

Part of the story is a steep drop over the years in teenage pregnancy, a welcome and long-sought development. Women in their 20s have also been having fewer children, though. The trend is toward women delaying having children and having fewer of them.

Four of a Kind

A short line sonnet quartet

"No one knows why he advances as well as he does or could expect that laughable croak to work in so many circumstances."
—from a short poem by Kay Ryan, US poet laureate, 2008 – 2010

By the time you read this, I will be in a snow-covered Buddhist monastery in the mountains of South Korea or somewhere in the northern Mojave Desert between a rock and a hard place. For medical reasons I will spend some time under doctor's care. I will miss the sea of blue, the sea of stars, and all of you, my heart is true, feeling a little blue. I'll be back either in a box of ashes or with lucky gambling cashes. I'll send poems from time to time as long as I can remember how to use a computer and rhyme. Love to you all, long life and laughter! Isn't that what we all are after? Peace.

These four poems are dedicated to Tommy "Numbers" Henderson, a Nevada casino dealer on the Colorado River for 13 years. Tommy has the wit of Will Rogers and the humor and wisdom of Mark Twain. He's great storyteller and I'm proud to say he is a

Gaige gi talañga-hu diariu kinalamten tautau-ta siha gi enteru atkipetlagun iya Marianas. Ni nuñka 'nai hu letke.

Guaha siha gi kustumbe-ta man-maliñgu gi rimulinun tinilaikan tiempu. Lau esta pa'gu fitme yan chettun liñguahen Chamorro.

Debi usun liñguahita uma-usa gi halum guma' familia diariu para ta sustene finu' Chamorro. I famaguon siempre u fan eyag yan manafamta' hila' nanan niha gi hinanau hinerasion.

Ayudu

Mauleg na tiempu hu gu'ut kebleghu \$100 pesos para haf na nesessidat. Hu suspecha na gigon haye tumugtugag gi boys siempre kontra lamasan maneska.

Dispues, esta estabayu' gi un' tenda 'nai hu fagcha'e un' amku' sige ha sumat balin fektus siha ni ha kikilili'. Hu comprende chinatsagaña i amku'. Dimas de bai fahan i setbesa huna'e ni kebleghu para unasetbe.

Humuyuñg-yu' sin setbesa. Kara'! Ti lastima ayudu-hu pot kontentu konsensiag-hu ni disision-hu. Mauleg deskansog-hu gihe na pueñge sin sinetsut. Haf ya si nana-hu ayu na amku'?

Nana`lu

Kumonfisat i amiguho pot mañake dos lechun gi lanchun bisinu. Piniloña na magpu' kuentañña 'nai kumonfisat.

Era, sinañgan as pale' na unana'lu sinakeña babue. Desde ayu kada humihot hu ñigofñiguf babue guieñg-hu para baina' hassu ni sinakeña. Che'chu' pitbetserias! Ai na chaleg!

Niño

Hu dandan un' bonitun sunidu (piano), Pueñgen Yuus, mientras hu rikononose i Internet. Esta na' mahalañg piot gi chagchag oga'an 'nai guaguahu ha' na maisa gi baranda.

Mafattu mahalañghu ni tropan Niño gi ha'anen Noche Buena ni kumone' si Jesus para i gima' tautau siha gi señgsuñg. Mot-mot sumen namagof na felisitasion ginen todú.

Hu huñgug dispues katen pajaru ni umalilagu fan deskansun niha gi minachum atdau. I manog lokue' duru man-tugtugag antes de u fañgahulu' gi troñku.

Dispues de hu taitai uttimo siha attikulu ni huna' sahñge gi lataftaf 'nai humalum-yu' lokue' dumeskansa. Finagu' ha'ane!

As demographer Lyman Stone notes, the survey data tends to show that women still want kids, in fact perhaps more children than before. But later-in-life childbearing is inherently more difficult, and student debt, high housing costs and intense parental investment in children make having kids more burdensome (or at least feel that way).

While we now have fewer births, the death rate is increasing. A new study published in JAMA notes that after stalling out in 2010, life expectancy in the country has been declining since 2014, down from 78.9 years to 78.6 in 2017.

The U.S. has been losing ground to other countries in life expectancy since the 1980s. According to the Kaiser Family Foundation, it now has the lowest life expectancy among comparable advanced nations.

The decline isn't hitting older Americans, who are still making improvements, but is cutting down people in the prime of their life, ages 25-64. "The odds," Lyman Stone writes, "that a 32-year-old will die in a given year rose by almost 25% between 2012-14 and 2015-17. American adulthood has suddenly become more lethal than it has been in decades."

Drug overdoses are a major driver (midlife mortality from drug overdoses has increased almost 400% over the past 20 years), with liver disease and suicide also contributing.

In 2017, an astonishing 150,000 Americans died from

lifelong friend from Elmira, NY. He went back home a few years ago and may have finally found his own El Dorado gold mine.

Pit Boss Colossus

Who is on next shift
and tomorrow night
hope its that
funny old timer
he supposedly knows
a thing or three
about hold em
and pai gow poker
he knows how
to get rid of
loud losers and whiners
gets em up and away
to free buffet diners
wish he was on now.

Hold 'Em or Fold 'Em No Dice Advice

On the river
Colorado casino
dealer delivers

jackpot not
at the table
pots getting bigger
newcomer wins
go figure
in the pot
salary for a week
feeling hot
no need to speak
no sweat
raise the bet.

Big Whale Fail Going to the Rail
You hoped to
catch a royal card
stayed in too long
in big pot games
a river Ace
a poker face
things went wrong
you had a few

LITERARY NOOK

By JOEY 'PEPE BATBON' CONNOLLY

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Joe "Pepe Batbon" Connolly is a retired teacher and has been named a poet laureate of Tinian. He has taught English in CNMI public schools for the past 30 years. He has also taught in Alaska, New Orleans, and Las Vegas.

hands and brew

and figured out

the new tells

right away

possible flush

let's play.

Kings Pair and Ladies Dare

Your Kings
promising things
one has a heart

probable start

his Queens

looking good

a royal flush

dream understood

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last hand

losing all night

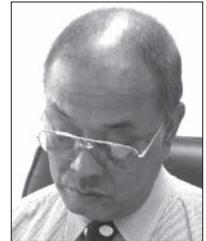
on the river

got it made

King a spade.

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

Special to the Saipan Tribune



John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.

Finu` Amku`

Guaha 'nai hu birayu' tatte gi konbetsasion-hu yan biahu (nanan tatahu) gi kantun pottan kusina antes. Tai atparehu suabe yan pa-sensia na finu' saina ni muna' magem impiotog-hu.

I fino'ña konsuelu-hu maseha ñgai'an 'nai hagacha'yu' maliñgun ñaihon impiotog-hu. Suabe yan amtau na dopbladan palabra ginen un' amku' muna' mamansu impiotora. Bali umekuñgug finu' saina!

Antes

Gi un' lemlem tautau hu bisita un' kantun unai. Huli'e gi lachagu' un' bihu guiguiya ha' namaisa. Hu li'e lokue' na guaha ha kuentutuse. Dispues maliñgu! Hu supone na espiritu 'sino animas.

Humanau-yu' guatu gi sagaña hu saluda konrespetu antes de bai kaikai-yu' para i gima'. Hu siente ha' na guaha tautau guihe maseha espiritu. Mangagau-yu' dispensu para an' ti kombeni finatoghu.

Palabra

Gi finu' English "corruption". Gi Chamorro "kumbalache", eksisiu 'nai man-apuntau 'sino manma-elihe ma-abusa puestun niha. Man-malefa ni interes i tautau.

I asuntu gaige gi dos patman kanaita. 'An mansattun hit bu-mota i mangai integredat yan dignu na tautau kumu offisiat pues debi u guaha areglu gi adelantun tautau-ta siha gi señgsuñg. Ti nahuñg na manada "biba" ni siha mismu fuma' "biliba".

Siempre u guaha mas fotmat na presentacion gi tinatten kandidatu ni gai interes mañetbe. Hita para takula kabales haf enfin planun niha fuera de natata na inefrese siha.

By RICH LOWRY

King Features Synd., Inc.



Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

drug or alcohol abuse and suicide, more than U.S. combat deaths in World War I, the Korean War and the Vietnam War combined. Evidence suggests that the increased mortality is concentrated among persons with lower levels of education and income.

If we can get a handle on the opioid crisis, it will make an enormous difference, but the trends in life expectancy and fertility ought to occasion soul-searching. How is it that a society as technologically advanced and affluent as ours can't provide a more inviting environment for childbearing or the supports to keep people from doing themselves grievous harm?

Even if there are no ready policy answers, the question must be asked.

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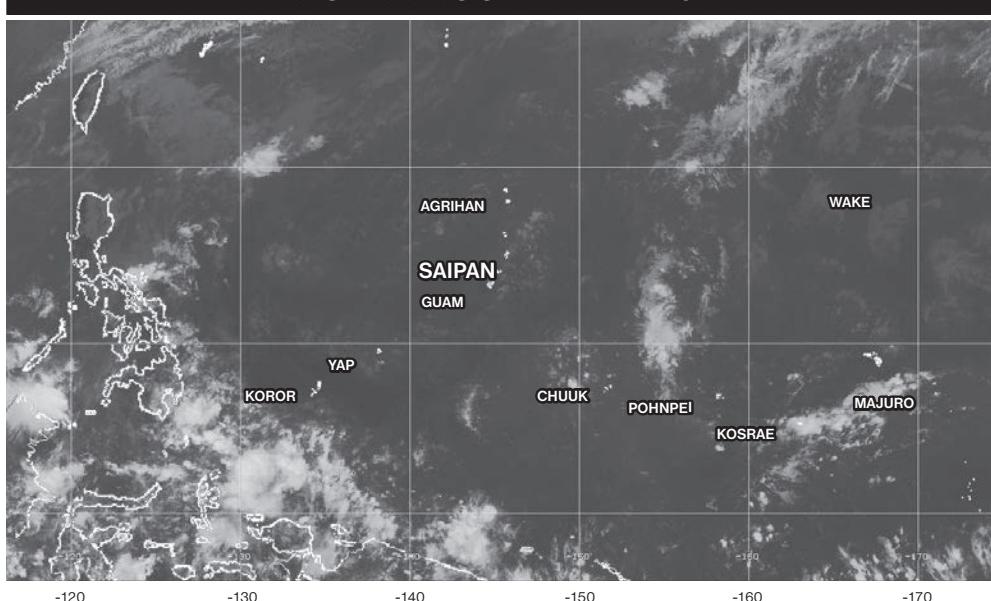
got it made

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
88°	77°	88°	77°	87°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:16 AM, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2019

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A dry weather pattern will prevail through the week with 700 mb relative humidity will remain mainly below 50 percent. There will be a slight increase in moisture starting Friday night as weak trade-wind convergence will bring mostly cloudy skies Friday night through Saturday night. As the moisture will only increase slightly shower coverage will remain isolated. High pressure building out over the Northwest Pacific will help cause an increase in wind speeds with breezy conditions Friday through the weekend as winds will be between 20 and 30 mph during the daytime.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲	▼	°F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	85°	/	80°
Palau	Thunderstorms	85°	/	77°
Yap	Thunderstorms	85°	/	80°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	85°	/	79°
Pohnpei	Sunny	86°	/	77°
Kosrae	Mostly Sunny	85°	/	77°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	86°	/	81°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲	▼	°F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	75°	/	63°
Beijing	Sunny	46°	/	27°
Hong Kong	Sunny	72°	/	63°
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	85°	/	73°
London	Sunny	68°	/	52°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	67°	/	53°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	90°	/	77°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	64°	/	54°
Miami	Partly Cloudy	81°	/	73°
New York	Snow	39°	/	27°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	54°	/	39°
Paris	Showers	46°	/	37°
Busan	Sunny	46°	/	34°
Rome	Showers	61°	/	50°
Salem	Showers	56°	/	40°
San Francisco	Mostly Cloudy	56°	/	49°
Seoul	Sunny	39°	/	25°
Tokyo	Sunny	63°	/	43°
Washington, DC	Snow	41°	/	27°



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Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

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- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY FEET		
12:59 AM	LOW TIDE	-0.30
7:51 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.61
1:05 PM	LOW TIDE	0.92
6:19 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.73

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:32 AM	5:47 PM
Thursday	6:32 AM	5:47 PM
Friday	6:33 AM	5:48 PM
Saturday	6:34 AM	5:48 PM
Sunday	6:34 AM	5:48 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	5:18 AM	5:02 PM
Thursday	-	6:14 AM	5:52 PM
Friday	-	7:11 AM	6:47 PM
Saturday	-	8:10 AM	7:45 PM
Sunday	-	9:07 AM	8:45 PM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 2, 2019

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117 9:15am 9:55am Daily				UA174 7:30am 8:11am Daily			
UA105 6:20pm 7:00pm 2, 4, 6				UA104 4:45pm 5:26pm 2, 4, 6			
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
SKY811 10:15am 3:00pm Daily				SKY816 4:35pm 7:30pm 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7			
				SKY816 5:05pm 8:00pm 6			
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3451 3:20am 6:30am Daily				7C3452 9:35pm 2:30am+1 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7			
				7C3452 10:05pm 2:30am+1 3			
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308 2:05am 6:05am Daily				OZ6233 8:00am 1:20pm 2, 4, 6			
OZ626 2:10am 6:05am 1				OZ623 8:55am 2:30pm 1, 3, 5, 7			
OZ626 2:50am 6:25am 3, 7				7C3402 10:10am 3:30pm Daily			
OZ626 2:50am 6:40am 2, 4, 5, 6				TW309 11:10am 4:25pm Daily			
7C3403 4:35am 8:35am Daily				OZ625 7:30pm 1:00am+1 7			
OZ6243 3:20pm 7:10pm 2, 4, 6				TW307 7:45pm 1:05am+1 Daily			
OZ624 3:50pm 7:40pm 1, 3, 5, 7				OZ625 8:20pm 1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6			
7C3401 4:30pm 8:25pm Daily				7C3404 10:10pm 3:40am+1 Daily			
TW310 5:25pm 10:15pm Daily							
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648 6:10am 8:50am 4, 7				3U8647 10:30pm 4:30am+1 3, 6			
SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (GHG)				HANGZHOU (GHG)-SAIPAN			
JD396 7:30am 12:05pm 1							

Business

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrera@saipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Kevin's Café and Catering celebrated their grand opening last Sunday joining the growing number of restaurants on island.

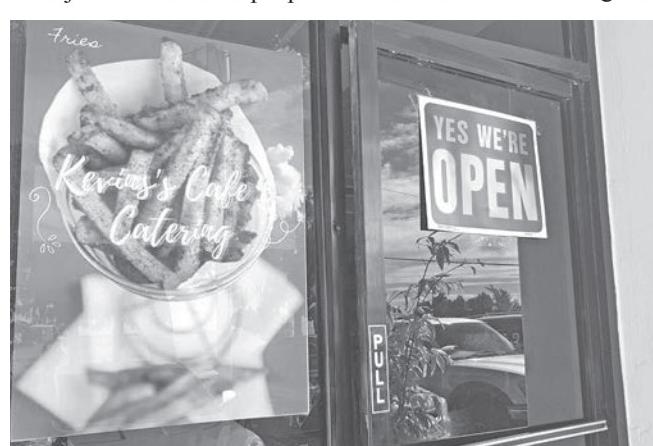
What makes them stand out, however, is that they are able to bring back old favorites in its location at the ground floor of Gold Beach Hotel on Beach Road.

According to president Jennifer Etayda, they serve a mix of Filipino and Chamorro food.

"Our cooks, including my husband Mike who was a chef at Pacific Islands Club Saipan years ago, have vast experience working in hotels so they manage to cook a variety of dishes... we are open for breakfast until dinner so the community can expect good food at any time of the day," she said.

"After many years of living on Saipan, we know how people love empanadas, donuts, and chicken kelaguen of the former Kevin's Supermarket in Chalan Kanoa and so we made it them available here—same taste, quality, and price," she added.

Kevin's Café and Catering is a no-frills restaurant as they consider the restaurant a fast-food joint. "We know people



Accessibility is key for Kevin's Café and Catering located at the ground floor of Gold Beach Hotel along Beach Road.

are busy and when it is time to eat, we know that they want the food that they are familiar with and that is also one of the reasons why we have the empanadas, donuts, and kelguens available during breakfast," Etayda said.

"For lunch, we offer two choices of viands with rice for only \$6 and for one choice, \$4. Our empanadas and donuts go for \$1 each and the chicken kelaguen goes for \$2.50. By dinner time, we offer *ala carte* menu and every Sunday, we have lunch buffet for only \$9.99 where we serve Filipino, Chamorro, Chinese food, and soon Thai dishes," Etayde added.

Etayda said that the interior décor of the café speaks to people who love color and creativity.

"Our children gave us the idea that this place should make people feel that it is 'okay to hang out and talk with friends or for people to do some work with their laptops. The café is spacious and our walls speak of an urban New York-style café."

"We have coffee, milkshakes in chocolate, vanilla, strawberry, and cookies and cream flavors. They can partner their drinks with our cheeseburger, nachos and our specialty—chili cheese fries. Our WiFi is strong and

KEVIN'S CAFÉ AND CATERING

A combination of old and new



BEA CABRERA

Kevin's Café and Catering is for the busy people who love good food. They serve Filipino, Chamorro, Chinese, and soon Thai dishes.



From left, Kevin's Café and Catering team is composed of cook Nila, president Jennifer Etayda, cook and owner Mike Etayda, cook Cha and cook Rosemarie Santos (not in photo).

available to our customers," Etayda added.

As added service, Kevin's Café and Restaurant does food deliveries, pickups not only available to guests of

Gold Beach Hotel but for the public. They also do catering that is affordable and for any occasion.

Etayda and her husband are longtime business people

on island. They also provide manpower services to various businesses on island and this café is their new baby.

"People ask me why put up a restaurant and I tell them

sensitive nature of the case. Tomeu Vadell, Jose Luis Zambrano, Alirio Zambrano, Jorge Toledo, Gustavo Cardenas and Jose Pereira were hauled away by masked security agents while at a meeting in Caracas just before Thanksgiving in 2017. They had been lured to Venezuela in order to attend a meeting at the headquarters of Citgo's parent, state-run oil giant PDVSA.

The two people said lawyers for the six men had made the request to be granted house arrest due to health concerns. There was no immediate comment from President Nicolas Maduro's government. The men are awaiting trial on corruption

charges stemming from a never-executed plan to refinance some \$4 billion in Citgo bonds by offering a 50% stake in the company as collateral.

Trump, Dems in tentative deal on North American trade pact

WASHINGTON (AP)—House Democrats have reached a tentative agreement with labor leaders and the White House over a rewrite of the U.S.-Mexico-Canada trade deal that has been a top priority for President Donald Trump. "I'm hearing very good things, including from unions and others that it's

looking good. I hope they put it up to a vote, and if they put it up to a vote, it's going to pass," Trump said Monday. "I'm hearing a lot of strides have been made over the last 24 hours, with unions and others." "We're close. We're not quite finished yet. We're within range," House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said Monday night. She briefed lawmakers on the negotiations earlier in the evening and said more meetings would follow Tuesday. The tentative accord was revealed by a Democratic aide not authorized to discuss the talks and granted anonymity because the agreement is not official.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Kim Woo-choong, founder of Daewoo business group, dies

SEOUL, South Korea

(AP)—Kim Woo-choong, founder of the now-collapsed Daewoo business group whose rise and fall symbolized South Korea's much turbulent rapid economic growth in the 1970s, has died. He was 83. Kim died of pneumonia on Monday night at a hospital in Suwon, just south of Seoul, with his family at his side, according to the Seoul-based Daewoosky Institute, an organization of former Daewoo executives and employees. Kim was honorary chairman of the institute. Born in 1936, when a single

Korea was under Japan's 35-year colonial rule, Kim started as a textile salesman and built Daewoo Corp. in 1967. The company later grew into South Korea's second-largest business empire, producing everything from cars, ships, TV sets, refrigerators and other electronics to clothes. Often dubbed by local media as "Kim Woo-choong myth," his rise represented South Korea's explosive economic development engineered by then-authoritarian leader Park Chung-hee, who nurtured a small number of chaebol conglomerates like Daewoo with cheap loans and tax benefits during his 1961-1979 rule. A self-proclaimed

workaholic, Kim was a role model for youths in South Korea, who dreamed of achieving a similar rags-to-riches story.

US oil executives jailed in Venezuela given house arrest

MIAMI (AP)—Six American oil executives held in an overcrowded Venezuelan prison for two years on corruption charges were granted house arrest Monday. The partial release of the six employees of Houston-based Citgo was confirmed to The Associated Press by two people familiar with the case who spoke on the condition of anonymity because of the

Nation



Democrats poised to unveil 2 impeachment articles vs. Trump

AP

House Judiciary Committee Chairman Jerrold Nadler, D-N.Y., departs after the House Judiciary Committee heard investigative findings in the impeachment inquiry of President Donald Trump, Monday, Dec. 9, 2019, on Capitol Hill in Washington.

WASHINGTON (AP)—House Democrats are poised to unveil two articles of impeachment against President Donald Trump—abuse of power and obstruction of Congress—with an announcement expected early Tuesday.

Democratic leaders say Trump put U.S. elections and national security at risk when he asked Ukraine to investigate his rivals, including Joe Biden.

Speaker Nancy Pelosi declined during an evening event Monday to discuss the articles or the coming announcement. Details were shared by mul-

tiple people familiar with the discussions but unauthorized to discuss them and granted anonymity.

When asked if she has enough votes to impeach the president, the Democratic leader said she would let House lawmakers vote their conscience.

“On an issue like this, we don’t count the votes. People will just make their voices known on it,” Pelosi said at The Wall Street Journal CEO Council. “I haven’t counted votes, nor will I.”

The outcome, though, appears increasingly set as the

House prepares to vote, as it has only three times in history against a U.S. president.

Trump spent part of the day tweeting against the impeachment proceedings, but did not immediately respond late Monday. The president and his allies have railed against the “absurd” proceedings.

Pelosi convened a meeting of the impeachment committee chairmen at her office in the Capitol late Monday following an acrimonious, nearly 10-hour hearing at the Judi-

cary Committee, which could vote as soon as this week.

“I think there’s a lot of agreement,” Rep. Eliot Engel of New York, the Democratic chairman of the Foreign Affairs committee, told reporters as he exited Pelosi’s office. “A lot of us believe that what happened with Ukraine especially is not something we can just close our eyes to.”

At the Judiciary hearing, Democrats said Trump’s push to have Ukraine investigate rival Joe Biden while with-

holding U.S. military aid ran counter to U.S. policy and benefited Russia as well as himself.

“President Trump’s persistent and continuing effort to coerce a foreign country to help him cheat to win an election is a clear and present danger to our free and fair elections and to our national security,” said Dan Goldman, the director of investigations at the House Intelligence Committee, presenting the finding of the panel’s 300-page report

of the inquiry.

Republicans rejected not just Goldman’s conclusion of the Ukraine matter; they also questioned his very appearance before the Judiciary panel. In a series of heated exchanges, they said Rep. Adam Schiff, the chairman of the Intelligence Committee, should appear rather than sending his lawyer.

From the White House, Trump tweeted repeatedly, assailing the “Witch Hunt!” and “Do Nothing Democrats.”

FBI says no link found between cyberattack and Navy base attack

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP)—The FBI said Monday it has found no signs of any link between a cyberattack on computer systems of a Florida Panhandle city and last week’s attack at the naval air station there in which a Saudi flight student killed three sailors and wounded eight others.

Officials in the city of Pensacola became aware of the cyberattack early Saturday, hours after Friday’s shooting at the Pensacola Naval Air Station. Much of the city’s computer system remained offline Monday morning, and federal authorities were alerted to the cyberattack as a precaution.

The FBI tweeted in a brief statement that its initial investigation has not identified any connection between the cyberattack and the shooting. “Our preliminary investigation continues,” the FBI statement said without elaboration.

Earlier Monday, Pensacola Mayor Grover Robinson

asked for patience in a community still grieving over the shooting at the Navy installation, a central part of the local economy and public life.

“We are a little bit hampered through this,” the mayor said.

City officials became aware of the cyberattack at about 1:30 a.m. Saturday, several hours after Friday’s shooting, said city spokeswoman, Kaycee Lagarde.

“As a precaution we have reported the incident to the federal government,” Lagarde had said previously.

Investigators are trying to establish whether the killer in Friday’s attack at the base, 2nd Lt. Mohammed Alshamrani, 21, of the Royal Saudi Air Force, acted alone or was part of a larger plot.

Ransomware cyberattacks on government systems have been on the rise in recent years, with some crippling services for long periods of time.

ACROSS THE NATION

Arms control on tap for Trump, Pompeo’s meeting with Lavrov

WASHINGTON (AP)—Arms control, Ukraine and Syria are to headline President Donald Trump and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo’s meetings Tuesday with Russia’s foreign minister. The visit by Sergey Lavrov, however, could be overshadowed by Ukraine-related impeachment proceedings that are picking up steam in the House. Lawmakers are drafting articles of impeachment alleging Trump abused his power by withholding military aid to Ukraine unless its new leader pledged to investigate the son of his political rival Joe Biden. Although the impeachment inquiry centers on Ukraine, which is fighting Russian-backed separatists in its east, Russia has been a major topic in the proceedings. Numerous witnesses have told investigators that Trump’s defenders are echoing a Russian disinformation campaign by accusing Ukraine of meddling in the 2016 presidential election. The meeting also comes a day after the Justice Department’s internal watchdog found that the FBI was justified in opening its investigation into ties between the Trump presidential campaign and Russia. Pompeo told One America News Network on Monday that the president has asked him to work on the U.S.-Russia business relationship and that he and Lavrov will also discuss arms control

issues that hopefully can be expanded to include China.

Family honors Florida UPS driver slain in police shootout

MIAMI (AP)—Family and friends honored on Monday a UPS driver who was killed in a shootout between Florida police and the robbery suspects who had hijacked his delivery truck. Loved ones filed by Frank Ordonez’s open casket at a Miami funeral home to pay respects to the 27-year-old driver. Some UPS employees showed up in the brown company uniform to express condolences to Ordonez’s family. Other UPS drivers pulled their delivery trucks over beside the road to observe a minute of silence for their coworker, according to the union Teamsters Local 769. On Sunday night at a UPS Customer Center, relatives and friends gathered for a vigil, lit candles and wrote messages on UPS slips they stuck to a car. UPS workers abroad have also joined in to express support—one group from London tweeted a photo showing uniformed workers holding up letters that together spelled #ONE UPS and RIP Frank Ordonez.

More than a dozen officers from four agencies had converged Thursday on the UPS truck at a busy South Florida intersection during rush hour, taking cover behind the vehicles of people stopped at a red light amid bursts of gunfire. The

27-year-old UPS driver and another motorist stopped at the light, Richard Cutshaw, were killed along with the suspects.

Mom astonished at how twin daughters survived after crash

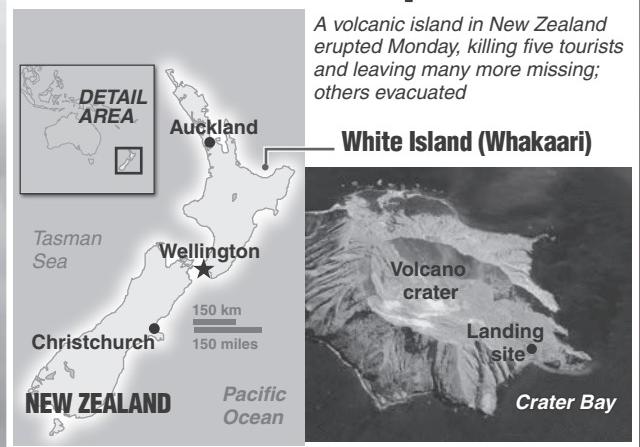
LANGLEY, Wash. (AP)—The mother of twin 4-year-old girls who survived a car crash that killed their dad north of Seattle says she’s astonished at what they did. Authorities say that after the car plunged down an embankment and into thick forest and undergrowth Friday night, the girls unbuckled themselves from their booster seats, realized their dad wasn’t talking and climbed out a broken rear window. They made it back up to the road, where they were spotted by a woman who happened to drive by. The girls’ mother, Esther Crider, told The Seattle Times they are “independent,” but she was astonished by what they did. They were both missing their shoes when they were found, she said. “They said they were scared and running around in the dark trying to go home,” Crider said. “A lady in a white car helped them get warm.” The crash, on Whidbey Island, killed Corey Simmons, 47, of Langley. He was not wearing a seat belt, authorities said. It’s not clear why the car left the winding roadway, striking several trees before it stopped. Crider said Simmons made that drive almost every day.

Asia

Up to 13 feared dead in VOLCANIC ERUPTION off New Zealand



Tourists killed in eruption



Source: AP, Google
Graphic: Tribune News Service

AP
This aerial photo shows White Island after its volcanic eruption in New Zealand Monday, Dec. 9, 2019.

TAURANGA, New Zealand (AP)—A volcano off the New Zealand coast erupted Monday with a towering blast of ash and scalding steam as dozens of tourists were exploring its moon-like surface, killing five people and leaving eight others missing and feared dead, authorities said.

Helicopter crews landed on White Island despite the danger and helped evacuate the dozens of survivors, some of them critically injured.

Hours after the disaster, authorities said the site was still too dangerous for rescuers to search for the missing. But aircraft flew over the island repeatedly, and “no signs of life have been seen at any point,” Prime Minister Jacinda Ar-

dern said.

The missing and injured included New Zealanders and tourists from Australia, the U.S., China, Britain and Malaysia, the prime minister said. Some of those who were exploring White Island volcano were passengers from the Royal Caribbean cruise ship Ovation of the Seas, docked on neighboring North Island.

“My god,” Michael Schade tweeted as he posted video of the eruption. “My family and I had gotten off it 20 minutes before, were waiting at our boat about to leave when we saw it. Boat ride home tending to people our boat rescued was indescribable.”

His video showed a wall of ash and steam around White Island and a helicopter heavily damaged and covered in ash.

He said one woman was badly injured but seemed “strong” by the end.

The terrifying disaster immediately raised questions of why people were allowed to visit the island some 30 miles (50 kilometers) off mainland New Zealand after scientists had noted an uptick in volcanic activity in recent weeks. White Island is the tip of an undersea volcano.

Authorities said 47 people were on the island at the time. Some were walking along the rim of the crater just before the eruption. In addition to the dead and missing, 31 survivors were hospitalized and three others were released, officials said. Some of the victims were reported severely burned.

The eruption took place about 2 p.m. and consisted of

two explosions in quick succession, the prime minister said. It sent a plume of steam and ash an estimated 12,000 feet (3,660 meters) into the air. One of the boats that returned from the island was covered with ash half a meter (yard) thick, Ardern said.

Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison said 13 Australians were hospitalized and 11 others were believed to be among the missing or dead.

“I fear there is worse news to come over the course of perhaps today or over the next few days,” he said. “This is a terrible tragedy, a time of great innocence and joy interrupted

by the horror of that eruption.”

The GeoNet agency, which monitors volcanoes and earthquakes in New Zealand, had raised the alert level on White Island on Nov. 18 from 1 to 2 on a scale where 5 represents a major eruption, noting an increase in sulfur dioxide gas, which originates from magma deep in the volcano. It also said that volcanic tremors had increased from weak to moderate strength.

Ardern said White Island is a “very unpredictable volcano,” and questions about whether tourists should be visiting will have to be addressed, “but for now, we’re focused

on those who are caught up in this horrific event.”

Brad Scott, a volcanologist with research group GNS Science, said the alert level on White Island is often raised and then dropped without any eruption. He said there hadn’t been any major problems with tourists visiting the island in the past, though there had been some close calls.

He would not venture an opinion on whether it was safe enough for tourists immediately before Monday’s eruption.

After the disaster, GeoNet raised its alert level to 4, later dropping it to 3.

North Korea calls Trump ‘erratic’ old man over tweets

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea insulted U.S. President Donald Trump again on Monday, calling him a “heedless and erratic old man” after he tweeted that North Korean leader Kim Jong Un wouldn’t want to abandon a special relationship between the two leaders and affect the American presidential election by resuming hostile acts.

A senior North Korean official, former nuclear negotiator Kim Yong Chol, said in a statement that his country wouldn’t cave in to U.S. pres-

sure because it has nothing to lose and accused the Trump administration of attempting to buy time ahead of an end-of-year deadline set by Kim Jong Un for Washington to salvage nuclear talks.

In a separate statement, former Foreign Minister Ri Su Yong said Trump’s comments were a “corroboration that he feels fear” about what North Korea might do when Kim’s deadline expires and warned Trump to think twice if he wants to avoid “bigger catastrophic consequences.”

On Sunday, Trump tweeted: “Kim Jong Un is too smart and has far too much to lose, everything actually, if he acts in a hostile way ... North Korea, under the leadership of Kim Jong Un, has tremendous economic potential, but it must denuclearize as promised.”

He was referring to a vague statement issued by the two leaders during their first summit in Singapore in June last year that called for a nuclear-free Korean Peninsula without describing when or how it would occur.

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Malaysia began a vaccination campaign in a rural town on Borneo island after a 3-month-old boy was confirmed to have polio in the country’s first case of the highly infectious virus in 27 years.

The infant from Tuaran town in Sabah state tested positive for vaccine-derived polio virus type 1 on Friday after he was hospitalized with fever and muscle weakness. He is on respiratory support but his condition is stable, Health Minister Dzulkefly Ahmad said in a statement Monday.

Malaysia is the second Asian country to have reported a polio case after an outbreak

in the Philippines in September. The World Health Organization says polio, which has been largely eradicated, remains endemic in only Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Dzulkefly said tests showed the baby’s strain had genetic links to the polio virus detected in Philippines and investigations are ongoing to determine the cause of the infection. Malaysia’s last polio case occurred in 1992 and the country was declared polio-free in 2000.

The health ministry said the strain was believed to have originated from a weakened virus contained in oral polio vaccine that was excreted

from the body through feces and possibly spread in an unsanitary environment to those who haven’t been immunized.

Dzulkefly said Malaysia switched from oral vaccine to inactivated polio vaccine since 2008, that is given to children via injection in a combination with several vaccines for other infectious diseases including diphtheria, pertussis and tetanus.

The government fully halted the use of oral vaccine three years ago, but he stressed the country has not had any reports of vaccine-derived polio cases from the use of over 80 million doses of the oral vaccine.

World

Russia, Ukraine to revive peace process amid little progress

PARIS (AP)—The presidents of Ukraine and Russia agreed Monday to revive the peace process on the bloody separatist conflict in eastern Ukraine and exchange all their prisoners, but they failed to resolve crucial issues such as a timeline on local elections and control of the borders in the rebel-held region.

At the first meeting between new Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy and Russian President Vladimir Putin, the two leaders failed to find a compromise to bring an end to the 5-year-old war that has killed 14,000 people, emboldened the Kremlin and reshaped European geopolitics.

But they did agree to try again in four months to find new solutions, said French President Emmanuel Macron, who mediated the talks along with German Chancellor Angela Merkel and called them “fruitful” in that it brought all four leaders together.

“There are disagreements, especially on timeline and next steps. We had a very long discussion on this,” Macron said at a news conference after the talks in the Elysee palace.

The talks focused on reviving a largely stalled 2015 peace agreement intended to end fighting between Ukrainian troops and Russia-backed separatists in eastern Ukraine.

Putin said they agreed that there was no alternative to the 2015 accord reached in the



Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskiy, left, German Chancellor Angela Merkel, French President Emmanuel Macron, third left and Russian President Vladimir Putin, right, attend a joint news conference at the Elysee Palace in Paris, Monday Dec. 9, 2019. AP

Belarusian capital of Minsk.

He emphasized that Ukraine should quickly extend a law giving wide autonomy to the rebel-held regions in line with the deal and also approve a legislation granting amnesty to the rebels.

He added that in addition to the prisoner swap, agreement was reached to continue pulling back troops in other areas in the east, clear mines there and remove fortifications.

Zelenskiy acknowledged many previous cease-fire deals didn't hold but he added that “this time we agreed to

treat it seriously.”

“I’m convinced that if all parties want it strongly, we will be able to implement it,” he said.

Ukraine and Russia conducted several rounds of prisoner exchange, most recently in September. Monday’s deal goes further, envisaging a blanket “all for all” exchange of all known prisoners held by Ukraine and the rebels.

Zelenskiy made a particular emphasis on that.

“I would very much like our people to come home in

time to spend the New Year holidays with their families,” Zelenskiy said after the talks.

But there was little clarity on the key contentious issues—autonomy for the east and control of the border.

Russia wanted the summit to increase pressure on Zelenskiy to fulfill the 2015 Minsk peace accord, which promises wide autonomy to Ukraine’s rebel-held regions.

The Minsk deal puts forth that Ukraine can regain control over the border with Russia in the separatist-held regions only after they are

Finland's new young female prime minister breaks the mold

COPENHAGEN, Denmark (AP)—Finland’s next government is breaking the mold in multiple ways.

Sanna Marin, the 34-year-old transport minister, was tapped over the weekend by the ruling Social Democratic Party to be Finland’s new prime minister. When she takes the reins of the country, most likely on Tuesday, she will become the world’s youngest sitting head of government.

In another unusual development, Marin will head a coalition with four other parties that are all led by women—three of whom are in their early 30s. Her own biography also breaks the mold: Raised by a single mother, she has described feeling discriminated against in Finland when her mother was in a relationship with another woman.

Elina Penttilä, a lecturer in gender studies at the University of Helsinki, said the rise of so many women is “exceptional”

not only by the standards of the wider world, where older men hold most power, but even by the standards of Finland, which regularly ranks as one of the best countries in the world for gender equality.

“Here it seems pretty amazing, too,” she said.

The Social Democrats emerged as the strongest party after Finland’s election in April. Antti Rinne, the incumbent prime minister whom Marin is replacing, stepped down last week amid political turmoil caused by a strike of postal workers. Rinne says he plans to continue as the Social Democrats’ leader until a party congress next summer.

Penttilä described Marin as a talented politician known for her leadership skills whose progressive program stresses combating climate change, protecting the country’s famous social protections like health care and reaching out to young people.

Finland, like much of the West, has seen a rise in right-wing populists and the nationalist Finns Party did well in April election, though centrist and left-wing parties won most votes and together could govern in the multi-party coalition.

“I hope it’s a sign of more change to come against populists, especially in the age of Trump and populism,” Penttilä said.

A tweet by a journalist for Finnish newspaper Helsingin Sanomat with photos of the quintet drew attention online by visually underscoring the idea of rising female power in politics.

Marin will become the youngest-serving leader of a government in the world, beating out Ukraine’s 35-year-old prime minister, Oleksiy Honcharuk. She might not hold that title for long, however. Sebastian Kurz, the 33-year-old former Austrian chancellor who rose to that position when he was 31, won an election in Sep-

tember and is in talks to form a new governing coalition that would put him back in the job.

Marin joins a small group of female leaders who have sought to counteract the rise of populism. That group includes Slovakian President Zuzana Čaputová, 46, a progressive whose election this year bucked the trend of populism and nationalism in Central Europe.

And like New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern—who is 39—Marin is a new mother, having given birth to a daughter last year.

A lawmaker since 2015, Marin is the party’s vice chairwoman and was minister for transport and communications in the outgoing government.

Lawmakers are likely to approve the new government this week so Marin can represent Finland at a summit of European Union leaders in Brussels on Thursday and Friday. Finland holds the EU’s rotating presidency until the end of the year.

Pension strikes cripple Paris, more travel woes ahead

PARIS (AP)—Paris commuters inched to work Monday through massive traffic jams as strikes against retirement plan changes halted trains and subways for a fifth straight day—with the prospect of a tougher day ahead.

French President Emmanuel Macron girded for one of the toughest weeks of his presidency as his government prepares to

present a redesign of the convoluted French pension system. Macron sees melding 42 different retirement plans into one as delivering a more equitable, financially sustainable system. Unions view the move as an attack on the French way of life even though Macron’s government is not expected to change the current retirement age of 62.

Citing safety risks, the SNCF national rail network warned travelers to stay home or use “alternative means of locomotion” Monday instead of thronging train platforms in hopes of getting one of the few available trains running.

The national road authority reported more than 600 kilometers (360 miles) of traffic problems at morning rush hour around the Paris region—up from 150 kilometers (90 miles) on an average day.

Paris police girded for

a huge pension protest march on Tuesday, similar to the one last Thursday when more than 800,000 people across France took part. Fearing possible violence on its fringes, police warned they would mobilize significant resources immediately to stop violence. All restaurants and shops along the march route were ordered closed, police said.

Air France, the national carrier, said more than 25% of its domestic traffic would be grounded Tuesday by the strike, along with more than 10% of its medium-haul flights. Long-haul trips were not to be affected. It said the French civil aviation authority had asked all airlines to cut back flights 20% on Tuesday at six airports, including Paris, Bordeaux and Marseille.

Only about a sixth of French trains were running Monday and international train lines also saw disruptions. Activists also blocked bus depots around Paris.

Gabriella Micuci from the Paris suburb of Le Bourget walked several kilometers (miles) in a cold rain Monday and then squeezed into a packed subway on one of the two automated Metro lines that don’t need drivers. Other commuters used shared bikes or electric scooters.

Focus

AP
In this Friday, March 3, 2017 file photo, a Banksy wall painting showing an Israeli border police officer and a Palestinian in a pillow fight decorates one of the rooms of the The Walled Off Hotel in the West Bank city of Bethlehem. As visitors descend on Bethlehem this Christmas, they have the option of staying in restored centuries-old guesthouses, taking food tours of local markets, and perusing the dystopian art in and around a hotel designed by the British graffiti artist Banksy

Palestinians in Bethlehem look beyond religious tourism

By JOSEPH KRAUSS and MOHAMMAD DARAGHMEH
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BETHLEHEM, West Bank (AP)—For decades, the people of Bethlehem have watched tour buses drive up to the Church of the Nativity, disgorging their passengers for a few hours at the traditional birthplace of Jesus, and then return to Israel.

But in recent years a new form of tourism has taken root, focused on the West Bank town's Palestinian residents, their culture and history and their struggles under Israeli occupation.

As pilgrims descend on Bethlehem this Christmas, they have the option of staying in restored centuries-old guesthouses, taking food tours of local markets, and perusing the dystopian art in and around a hotel designed by the British graffiti artist Banksy.

The centerpiece of tourism, and the focus of Christmas celebrations in the coming weeks, is the 6th-century Church of the Nativity, built on the site where Jesus is believed to have been born in a manger. Extensive renovations in recent years have saved the roof from collapse and revealed colorful wall mosaics depicting angels and saints.

Earlier this month, the Vatican returned a small part of

what Christians believe to be the original manger, which was sent to Rome as a gift to the pope in the 7th century. The thumb-sized relic, displayed in an ornate silver case, can be seen in a chapel adjoining the church.

Religious tourism is a boon for the local economy, but many Palestinians feel the city's modern residents are largely ignored.

Israel captured the West Bank, along with east Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip, in the 1967 Middle East war. The Palestinians view the territories as part of their national homeland and hope to one day establish an independent state.

Visitors travelling to Bethlehem pass through a sprawling Israeli checkpoint and then drive along the separation wall, which Israel began building during the second Palestinian intifada, or uprising, in the early 2000s. Israel says the barrier is needed to prevent attacks, but the Palestinians view it as a land grab because its route places almost 10% of the West Bank on the Israeli side. Bethlehem itself is almost completely surrounded by the barrier and a string of Jewish settlements.

He noted that while the Holy Land includes the most important sites in Christianity, including the places where

tradition says Christ was born, where he grew up, was crucified and resurrected, it attracts far fewer visitors than the Vatican. "We have the opportunity to draw more people," he said.

opened in 2017. The hotel looks out on the separation wall, which itself is covered with artwork, graffiti and museum panels explaining life under occupation. Inside, a number of Banksy pieces are depicted in a haunting lobby, which this time of year is dimly lit with Christmas lights.

The hotel offers weekly performances by local musicians and daily tours of a nearby Palestinian refugee camp. Tours of Banksy's public artwork elsewhere in the town can be organized on request.

A different form of alternative tourism, conceived by Palestinians themselves, can be found in the city center, just a few hundred meters (yards) from the church. There the municipality, with Italian aid, has restored an 18th-century guesthouse and rented it out to Fadi Kattan, a French Palestinian chef.

The Hosh Al-Syrian Guesthouse includes 12 tastefully furnished rooms ranging from \$80-150 a night. At its Fawda Restaurant — Arabic for chaos — Kattan uses local ingredients to cook up traditional Palestinian cuisine with a modern twist.

"My vision was to say religious tourism will promote itself by itself, it doesn't need the

private sector to promote it," he said. "Let's promote everything else. Let's promote our food, let's promote our culture, let's promote our history."

Kattan is especially keen to promote Palestinian cuisine, which he says has been appropriated by Israeli chefs and food writers. As with nearly everything else having to do with the Middle East conflict, there are two sides: Israeli cuisine owes much to Jewish immigrants from ancient communities across the Middle East and North Africa.

The guesthouse partners with a local group known as Farayek to offer food tours in which visitors wander through the local market, meeting farmers, butchers and bakers before having lunch at the guesthouse. Another program includes cooking classes taught by a Palestinian grandmother.

"What I was hoping to achieve is to have people stay three nights in Bethlehem, to have people go to the fruit and vegetable market, to have people meet the people of Bethlehem, not just the very short tour into the city," he said.

When the guesthouse opened in 2014, the average stay was one night, but now it has risen to three and a half, with steady occupancy

throughout the low season, Kattan said.

A handful of other restored guesthouses have also opened in recent years, including Dar al-Majus, Arabic for House of the Maji, named for the three kings said to have visited the manger after Christ was born.

The guesthouse is part of a wider initiative by the Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land and a local association to support the Christian community. Bethlehem's Christian community, like others across the Middle East, has dramatically dwindled in recent decades as Christians have fled war and conflict or sought better economic opportunities abroad.

A local family living next to the guesthouse cooks breakfast and traditional meals for guests, and the guesthouse employs members of another two families. The guesthouse mostly supplies itself from the local market, and there are plans to expand to another restored house in the old quarter next year.

Bethlehem's mayor, Anton Salman, expects the recent growth in tourism to continue.

"Each season is more active and more organized and more attractive for the local community in Palestine and for the tourists," he said.



Good Housekeeping



3 easy DIY holiday decor ideas from a style blogger

DIY holiday craft ideas blogger Erin Francois at her Minneapolis home.
DAVID JOLES/MINNEAPOLIS STAR TRIBUNE/TNS

By RACHEL HUTTON
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

Minneapolis DIY style blogger Erin Francois, author of [francoisetmoi.com](#), says she comes from “a long line of makers,” including a grandmother and mother with abundant drawing and sewing talent. Francois’ youthful love of playing with craft materials eventually led to a degree in interior design and a job applying her skills to commercial spaces.

After she and her husband bought a 1930s Tudor in the Tangletown neighborhood, Francois blogged about their extensive (and very hands-on) renovation process and how she imprinted the home with what she describes as her “handmade modern” style. Furnishings and accessories that feel personal and cozy—a vintage Persian rug, faux fur throws, a live-edge walnut bench—are layered

on a clean, contemporary backdrop of white walls, cabinetry and tile.

The house is full of Francois’ DIY items, including a blanket ladder made from closet rods, a repurposed thrift store coffee table and a radiator cover that lends sophisticated polish to a once-drap foyer.

When it comes to holiday decor, Francois taps her Scandinavian heritage to practice hygge, the art of savoring simple pleasures. That means incorporating natural elements (winter greenery, berry branches), using everyday, utilitarian materials in unexpected ways (paper bag hanging stars), and plenty of candles (including ones she created by rolling beeswax sheets).

Francois encourages her readers to tackle their own projects, big or small. When anyone admires one of her DIY pieces, she delights in telling them, “I made it—and you can, too.”

AMARYLLIS BULB CENTERPIECE

A simple, yet impactful centerpiece of easy-to-grow amaryllis or paperwhite bulbs in a galvanized metal planter, dressed-up with a variety

of mosses.

Materials:

- Galvanized metal trough planter. Francois likes the ones from Winona’s Behrens Manufacturing (she’s a brand ambassador)
- Amaryllis or paperwhite bulbs
- Small pebbles
- Soil
- A variety of mosses

1. Pour 1-2 inches of pebbles at the bottom of the planter for drainage.
2. Evenly distribute bulbs in the planter. Three amaryllis bulbs or six paperwhite bulbs fit perfectly.

3. Fill around the bulbs with soil so that the top third of the bulb remains showing.
4. Water the soil around the bulbs thoroughly. Then hold off watering again until you see new growth.

5. Top the soil with mosses for a dressed-up look.

PAPER BAG HANGING STARS

Brown paper lunch bags are used to create beautiful and simple multi-faceted hanging stars. This is a great project to make with kids.

Materials:

- Small paper bags (6 inches wide

or 3 inches wide)

- Glue stick
- Scissors
- Ribbon
- Hot glue gun

1. Place a flat paper bag on the table in front of you, placing the side with the folded bottom of the bag up.

2. Apply glue stick to the rectangle (the bottom of the bag), as well as a stripe of glue up the middle length of the bag.

3. Place another bag of the same size on top of the first bag and press down firmly.

4. Glue and stack three more bags in the same manner until you have five bags glued together.

5. Repeat steps 2-4 to create another glued stack of five bags.

6. Cut the corners off the top of the bags to form a point.

7. Glue the two stacks of bags together with the same glue method as step 2.

8. Cut a 24-inch length of ribbon (for large star) and 16-inch length of ribbon (for small star). Fold the ribbon in half, and hot glue the bottom few inches together.

9. Fan out the star into a circle

so the two ends of the stacks meet. Sandwich the loop of ribbon between the two ends of the fan.

10. Hot glue the two ends of the fan (with the ribbon sandwiched in between) together.

11. Allow a few minutes for the glue to dry before hanging the star.

POMANDER BALLS

Fresh, whole oranges and tangerines studded with cloves and tucked into a bowl of greenery make easy coffee table decor that smells amazing.

Materials:

- Citrus fruit, such as oranges and tangerines
- Whole cloves
- Toothpick
- Rubber band
- Ribbon (optional)

1. Create designs on the surface of the orange by puncturing small holes in the orange peel with a toothpick. Then insert whole cloves into the toothpick holes. (Wrap rubber bands around the orange to use as a guide for creating straight lines.)

2. Tie ribbon around the clove-studded orange for added embellishment.

Life & Style

NEW YORK (AP)—A Netflix wave swept over the 77th Golden Globe nominations, where the streaming company dominated with 34 total nominations, including four films up for best picture and four series nominated for the top television awards.

Noah Baumbach's divorce drama "Marriage Story" led all films with six nominations including best picture, drama, and acting nods for its two leads, Adam Driver and Scarlett Johansson, in nominations announced Monday by the Hollywood Foreign Press Association in Beverly Hills, California. "Marriage Story," which landed on Netflix on Friday after a three-week run in theaters, also earned nods for Baumbach's script, Laura Dern's supporting performance and Randy Newman's score. The only notable category it missed on was Baumbach for best director.

Three other Netflix films landed best picture nods, chief among them Martin Scorsese's mob epic "The Irishman," which landed five nominations including best drama picture, best director for Scorsese and supporting acting nods for Al Pacino and Joe Pesci. Surprisingly left out was its lead, Robert De Niro.

Quentin Tarantino's 1960s Los Angeles fable "Once Upon a Time ... in Hollywood," a Sony Pictures release, also scored five nominations, including best film comedy or musical and nods for Brad Pitt and Leonardo DiCaprio. Tarantino is also up for best director. In a statement, DiCaprio called it "a love letter to Los Angeles" and "a celebration of cinema."

But the degree to which cinema—that word that Scorsese has passionately argued for this season—is changing was overwhelmingly apparent in Monday's nominations. And just as it is girding for battle with a host of new streaming services, Netflix flexed its muscles across all categories. HBO Max and NBCUniversal's Peacock are set to join the streaming fray next year, on the heels of the launch of Apple TV-Plus and Disney-Plus.

For now, Hollywood belongs to Netflix. It also scored best picture nods for the Vatican bromance "The Two Popes" in the drama category (along with nominations for its stars, Jonathan Pryce and Anthony Hopkins); and the Eddie Murphy-led "Dolemite Is My Name" in the comedy category (along with an acting nod for Murphy).

Before landing four on Monday, Netflix had never earned a Golden Globes best



AP

This image released by Netflix shows Scarlett Johansson, left, and Adam Driver in "Marriage Story."

Led by 'Marriage Story,' Netflix dominates Golden Globe noms

picture nomination.

Two Netflix series tied HBO's "Chernobyl" with the most nominations on the TV side with four nods: "The Crown" and "Unbelievable." Netflix's "The Kominsky Method" and "The Politician" additionally landed best series, comedy or musical, nominations alongside Emmy favorites "Fleabag," from Amazon, and HBO's "Barry."

Led by "Succession," "Big Little Lies" and "Chernobyl," HBO still had a strong showing with 15 nods overall, second to Netflix's 17 television nominations—even if the final season of "Game of Thrones" failed to make it into the best drama series category.

But streaming services made greater inroads to one of Hollywood's premier parties than ever before, reflecting the industry's quickening realignment. Amazon had eight nominations in total, boosted by "The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel" and "Fleabag." The recently launched Apple TV Plus scored its first Globes nominations with "The Morning Show," including nods for Jennifer Aniston and Reese Witherspoon. Broadcast networks were completely shut out in all 55 nominations.

Yoda. Disney Plus' "The Mandalorian" didn't make the cut.

Yet if the Globes nominations gave a snapshot of the changing media landscape, some saw a notable lack of progress in other areas. The press association again fielded an all-male directing category,

nominating Scorsese, Tarantino, Bong Joon Ho ("Parasite"), Sam Mendes (whose World War I thriller "1917" was also nominated for best picture, drama) and Todd Phillips ("Joker").

Among those left out were Greta Gerwig ("Little Wom-

en"), Lulu Wang ("The Farewell") and Marielle Heller ("A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood"). The Globes have only ever nominated five women for best director. At the 2017 awards, Natalie Portman pointedly introduced the category's "all-male nominees."

None of this year's 10 nominees for best picture were directed by women, either. Most notably overlooked was Gerwig's upcoming Louisa May Alcott adaptation "Little Women," which was nominated for Saoirse Ronan's lead performance and Alexandre Desplat's score. Adding to the trend was the omission, on the TV side, of Ava DuVernay's acclaimed Central Park Five miniseries "When They See Us."

Broadcast TV shut out, Netflix edges HBO

NEW YORK (AP)—The Golden Globe TV nominations were most striking not for what they included, but what they didn't: The traditional broadcast networks were completely shut out in all 55 nominations.

It was a crowning moment for Netflix, and not just for the jeweled one on Queen Elizabeth's head. The streaming service, which dominated the Globe nominations overall, edged out HBO to win the most TV nods on Monday.

Netflix got 17 TV nods, to go with its 17 on the movie side. HBO was a close successor at 15. Two Netflix shows got four nods: "The Crown," in its new Olivia Colman incarnation, in the drama category, and "Unbelievable" in the limited series category, ty-

ing with HBO's "Chernobyl."

The shutout, believed to be for the first time, of the broadcast networks—ABC, NBC, CBS, Fox, The CW and PBS—made for a seemingly awkward situation for NBC, which will host the awards ceremony Jan. 5 and covered the nominations live on "Today."

"It's shocking and weird that NBC will still telecast the Globes even though voters decided that the network's programs aren't worthy to compete," said TV analyst Tom O'Neil of goldderby.com, adding that a similar scenario has gradually been playing out at the Emmys.

Perhaps the biggest snub went to the HBO behemoth "Game of Thrones," this year's big Emmy winner, which in its final season was

nearly shut out, save a leading actor nomination for Kit Harington. Overlooked was Peter Dinklage, an Emmy winner, in the supporting actor category. Also left out: FX's "Pose," though star Billy Porter was nominated.

Another key snub was a rare bit of bad news for Net-

flix: Its acclaimed "When They See Us," about the exonerated Central Park Five, was shut out, despite taking two Emmys, including for actor Jharrel Jerome. Its much-admired director, Ava DuVernay, was left off the list, adding to a bad day for female directors—and for diversity in general—across the board.

And comedy titan Julia Louis Dreyfus was bypassed for the last season of HBO's acclaimed "Veep," as was Ricky Gervais will host the 77th Golden Globes ceremony.

Sandra Oh in "Killing Eve," who not only won the Globe last year, but co-hosted the awards show. Her co-star Jodie Comer, who took the Emmy in September, was nominated for her role as a multilingual, chillingly off-kilter assassin in the BBC America drama.

The Globes again showed an abiding affection for movie stars who dabble in TV. Jennifer Aniston and Reese Witherspoon were nominated for the Apple TV Plus drama "The Morning Show," not a critical favorite despite its starry cast. The nominations handed Apple its first Globe nominations barely a month after the streaming service launched.

But shed a tear for Baby

Golden snubs and surprises, including little ‘Cats’ love

NEW YORK (AP)—Some Golden Globe nominations seemed like locks: Joaquin Phoenix, Tom Hanks, Adam Driver and Eddie Murphy. But others were shocks, like Lupita Nyong'o not getting a nomination for “Us.” Other notable snubs and surprises:

MEN ONLY

Only men made the best director category: Bong Joon Ho for “Parasite,” Sam Mendes with “1917,” Todd Phillips for “Joker,” Martin Scorsese with “The Irishman” and Quentin Tarantino’s “Once Upon a Time ... in Hollywood.” Notable female directors snubbed this year include Greta Gerwig of “Little Women,” Marielle Heller, who directed “A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood,” Lulu Wang of “The Farewell” and Lorene Scafaria of “Hustlers.”

AVA GETS NO LOVE

“When They See Us,” the searing TV series on the plight of the Central Park Five got no nods despite critical acclaim. The four-part Netflix series explores the true story of five black and Latino teenagers from Harlem who were coerced into confessing to a rape they didn’t commit in 1989. Show creator Ava DuVernay was also snubbed at the Emmys in the directing and writing categories, although Jharrel Jerome won for best lead actor in a limited series.

NO PURRING

Although the Hollywood Foreign Press Association was



From left, Dakota Fanning, Susan Kelechi Watson, and Tim Allen appear on stage at the nominations for the 77th annual Golden Globe Awards at the Beverly Hilton Hotel on Monday, Dec. 9, 2019, in Beverly Hills, Calif. AP

shown an unfinished cut of Tom Hooper’s film “Cats,” the group chose not to give it any acting, directing or technical nominations. The film adaptation of the Andrew Lloyd Webber musical stars Judi Dench, Ian McKellen, Idris Elba, Jennifer Hudson and Taylor Swift. It’s in theaters Dec. 20. The film did earn Taylor Swift and Lloyd Webber nods for writing the song “Beautiful Ghosts.”

GOLDEN SON

Globe voters waded into the thorny family drama “Succes-

sion” and gave nominations to the show and to Brian Cox, who plays the powerful patriarch. It also gave a nomination to one of the three actors hoping to succeed Cox’s Logan Roy. Was it the ice queen played by Sarah Snook? The unpredictable, snarky son played by Kieran Culkin? The striving but bumbling son played by Jeremy Strong? In the end, Culkin got the nod for the second successive year.

ANYONE WATCHING?

HBO’s “Watchmen,” an adaption of one of the most

acclaimed graphic novels of all time, was ignored by the Globe voters. The dark superhero tale, which follows a

group of masked vigilantes, stars Regina King, Jeremy Irons, Louis Gossett Jr., Jean Smart, Tim Blake Nelson

‘The Mandalorian’ gives female directors a chance to shine

LOS ANGELES (AP)—“Star Wars” has faced criticism for having a lack of female directors, but the popular franchise is making an effort to place more women in the prominent role starting with the new series “The Mandalorian.”

The Disney Plus series, which airs Fridays, broke new ground for “Star Wars” when Deborah Chow became the first woman during a Nov. 22 episode to direct a live-action story in the 42-year history of the franchise. She had company this season from Bryce Dallas Howard, who later directed an episode.

The lack of women directors has drawn criticism not only to “Star Wars” but to the film and television industry as well. The selection of Chow and Howard is a move by the Lucasfilm property to show its commitment to put more women behind the camera.

“It feels like respect. We’re given a chance to show up,” said Howard, who directed the fourth episode of the series, which follows the journey of a Mandalorian bounty hunter along with an adorable green alien infant dubbed “Baby Yoda,” who wields Jedi-like powers. The series takes place about five years after the events of the 1983 film “Return of the Jedi.”

Howard has been around film sets all her life as the eldest daughter of actor-director Ron Howard, who directed 2018’s “Solo: A Star Wars

and Don Johnson. Critics seemed to like it more than “The Morning Show,” which earned three nominations.

YOU TALKIN’ ABOUT ME?

Al Pacino got one. Joe Pesci got one. And director Martin Scorsese got one, of course. But Robert De Niro didn’t get an acting nomination for his work on “The Irishman.” De Niro plays Frank Sheehan, the teamster and mafia figure who claimed right before his death that he was the one who killed Jimmy Hoffa. But don’t worry about De Niro. He already has a Globe for “Raging Bull.”

A SMALLER THRONE

The Golden Globes have been a safe place for HBO’s “Game of Thrones.” That ended this year. The show only picked up one nomination, for actor Kit Harington. Previously, “Game of Thrones” earned nods for best drama in 2012 and every year from 2015-2018. Fans have had mixed love for the final season and some have even asked HBO to remake it.

that we’re capable of doing it.”

Based on the numbers, there has been some progress. The television episodes directed by women grew to a record 31%, more than doubling in the past five years, according to the Directors Guild of America’s Episodic Television Director inclusion report covering the 2018-2019 season.

Disney/ABC companies gave the most directorial opportunities to women. Of their episodes, 40% were directed by women.

Howard gave credit to “The Mandalorian” creator Jon Favreau for opening doors for many in the industry and to Lucasfilm president Kathleen Kennedy, who she says has been working for years to create more behind-the-camera opportunities for women.

“Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker” director J.J. Abrams hopes the increase in TV can translate into film, which had only 8% of women directors in 2018, according to the San Diego State University report. The number was a 3% drop from the previous year.

“When you look at the statistics of how few female directors are actually working, it’s shocking,” he said. “You keep thinking ‘Oh it’s going to get better.’ It is, but not to the degree that it should.”

Abrams applauded Disney for hiring more female directors in the past year. He said diversity is needed to deliver a different and sometimes better perspective.

Beyoncé, Taylor Swift, Elton John, J. Lo up for Globes

NEW YORK (AP)—The Golden Globes are looking more like the Grammy Awards: Beyoncé, Taylor Swift and Elton John are competing for best original song at the ceremony.

The Hollywood Foreign Press Association announced nominees for the 2020 show on Monday. Others up for the music prize include the Oscar-winning wife-husband songwriting team Robert Lopez and Kristen Anderson-Lopez (“Into the Unknown” from “Frozen II”) and Cynthia Erivo (“Stand Up”) from the film “Harriet.”

Erivo also scored an acting nomination for her role as Harriet Tubman. If Erivo earns an Oscar nomination—as an actress or co-writer of “Stand Up”—it would get her closer to EGOT status since she’s already won an Emmy, Grammy and Tony for her work on Broadway’s “The Color Purple.” Erivo shares her music nomination

with co-writer Joshuah Brian Campbell.

Beyoncé scored the fourth Golden Globe nomination of her career—she’s up for co-writing the song “Spirit” from “The Lion King,” where she voiced the character Nala. She shares the nomination with co-writers Labrinth and Ilya Salomanzadeh. Swift is nominated for her third Globe with “Beautiful Ghosts” from “Cats,” a song she co-wrote with Andrew Lloyd Webber.

John—who won a Globe for “Can You Feel the Love Tonight?” from the original 1994 “The Lion King”—picked up a nomination for “(I’m Gonna) Love Me Again” from his “Rocketman” biopic. He shares his nomination with longtime writing partner Bernie Taupin. “Rocketman” also picked up a nod for best motion picture, musical or comedy, while Taron Egerton is up for best performance by an

actor in a motion picture—musical or comedy for portraying John.

Jennifer Lopez, who earned her first and only Globe nomination in the ’90s for her starring role in “Selena,” is competing for best performance by an actress in a supporting role in any motion picture thanks to her well-received role in the film “Hustlers,” which includes appearances by Cardi B and Lizzo.

His seventh nomination may be his lucky one: Randy Newman, who was previously nominated for six Globes with no wins, is up for best original score with “Marriage Story.” Other nominees include Alexandre Desplat (“Little Women”), Hildur Guðnadóttir (“Joker”), Thomas Newman (“1917”) and Daniel Pemberton (“Motherless Brooklyn”).

The 2020 Golden Globes will air live from Beverly Hills, California, on NBC on Jan. 5

Rapper treated for opioids during police search of plane

Chicago (AP)—A federal agent who was at a Chicago airport to search a private plane that rapper Juice WRLD and his entourage had arrived in administered the opioid antidote Narcan to the performer, who briefly woke up incoherent but later died, authorities said Monday.

The plane carrying the 21-year-old rapper, who was named top new artist at the 2019 Billboard Music Awards in May, and about a dozen other people landed at Midway International Airport at around 2 a.m. Sunday. Federal agents and city police officers, acting on a tip that a private plane coming from Los Angeles to Midway was carrying guns and drugs, were waiting, Chicago police spokesman Anthony Guglielmi said Monday.

During a search in a private hangar, a drug-sniffing

dog made a “positive alert” on luggage carts that were loaded with bags from the plane, Guglielmi said. Inside, they found multiple bags of suspected marijuana, several bottles of prescription cough syrup, three guns, metal-piercing bullets and a high-capacity ammunition magazine, he said.

The rapper, whose real name was Jarad Higgins and who was from the Chicago suburb of Homewood, went into convulsions during the search. One of the agents administered Narcan after the rapper’s girlfriend said he had been taking Percocet, an opioid painkiller, Guglielmi said, confirming a report in the Chicago Tribune. Higgins woke up but remained incoherent, the paper reported. He was rushed to Advocate Christ Medical Center in Oak Lawn, where he was

pronounced dead at about 3:15 a.m. Sunday.

An autopsy was completed Monday but the toxicology test results were still pending, the medical examiner’s office said. Foul play is not suspected in his death.

None of the dozen or so people on the plane admitted to carrying the drugs, but detectives were conducting a forensic analysis to determine which bags belonged to which passengers, he said, adding that two security guards who on the plane were arrested on misdemeanor gun charges.

Kosovo, Albania to boycott Nobel Literature award ceremony

PRISTINA, Kosovo (AP)—Kosovo and Albania say they will boycott the Nobel Literature Prize ceremony Tuesday to protest the award being given to Austrian writer Peter Handke who both countries link to the war in the former Yugoslavia.

Handke was an opponent of NATO’s airstrikes against Serbia in the Kosovo War of the late 1990s and spoke in 2006 at the funeral of autocratic Serbian leader Slobodan Milosevic.

Kosovo was part of Serbia until 1999 when NATO intervened to stop Milosevic.

Kosovo’s outgoing foreign minister, Behjet Pacolli has instructed the ambassador in Sweden “to boycott the cer-

emony,” adding that “a writer who supported Milosevic and his genocide in Bosnia and Kosovo does not deserve the Nobel Prize.”

In solidarity with Kosovo Albanians, Albania’s ambassador to Sweden won’t attend Tuesday’s Nobel ceremony, the Foreign Ministry said Monday. The country is boycotting the ceremony because of Handke’s support for “Slobodan Milosevic, the ‘butcher of the Balkans,’ who led so many mass atrocities during the bloody collapse of the former Yugoslavia.”

Albanian acting foreign minister, Gent Cakaj, who was born in Kosovo, tweeted that the “justification of war atrocities

during the Yugoslavia break-up must not be rewarded.”

For Milazim Krasniqi, a resident of Hocë e Vogel, a small village 80 kilometres (50 miles) southwest of the capital Pristina, he can’t believe “that Milosevic’s friend and supporter gets the prize in the 21st century.” There were more than 40 people killed in the village during the war.

More than 10,000 were killed or died in total in the 1998-99 war. A 78-day NATO air campaign ended Serb rule in Kosovo, and the United Nations governed the province until 2008 when Kosovo declared independence from Serbia, which Belgrade hasn’t recognized yet.



AP
In this May 15, 2019 file photo, Juice WRLD performs in concert during his “Death Race for Love Tour” at The Skyline Stage at The Mann Center for the Performing Arts in Philadelphia.

Michelle Obama promotes girls education in Vietnam school

LONG AN, Vietnam (AP)—Former U.S. first lady Michelle Obama spoke to students at a school in southern Vietnam while promoting education for girls to help reach their full potential.

Obama, accompanied by actresses Julia Roberts and Lana Condor and “Today Show” co-host Jenna Bush Hager, met on Monday with girls at a high school in Long An province by the Mekong delta, where they listened to the students talk about their schoolwork and challenges.

“We are gonna shine a light on you and the work that’s going on here ... so

that there are people around the world, who understand that when you educate a girl, you’ll give them power and a voice and an opportunity to improve their lives and the lives of their families and the

lives of their communities,” Obama said.

The visitors also joined the students in a life-skills training session where the girls practiced perseverance, critical thinking and negotiating and leadership skills that could ensure the girls are able to advocate for themselves in and out of their classrooms.

Michelle Obama started to work on promoting girls edu-

cation while her husband was president. She continues the charitable work through the Obama Foundation, with Girls Opportunity Alliance as one of its initiatives.

Last week, she announced that she would donate \$500,000 from the sale of her book “Becoming,” to the initiative’s fund.

After her visit to Vietnam, Obama and her husband former President Barack Obama, will speak at a meeting for their foundation in Malaysia that’s set to bring together 200 young leaders across the Asia Pacific region. The couple will also visit Singapore.

Fox News names Hemmer to take over Smith’s time slot

NEW YORK (AP)—Veteran anchor Bill Hemmer will replace Shepard Smith on Fox News Channel’s afternoon newscast, the network announced Monday.

Hemmer has been with Fox News since 2005, after previously working at CNN. He

has most recently been a co-host of Fox’s 10 a.m. news program, which now has an opening to fill.

Smith, who had become known for occasionally refuting some of the assertions made on Fox’s prime-time news programs, abruptly quit the network

in October. Fox said that under Hemmer, the 3 p.m. Eastern time show would remain a news and not an opinion program.

Hemmer will lead all breaking news coverage for the network as part of his new role.

He will debut on the program Jan. 20.

Childhood abuse led woman to long life of promiscuity

DEAR ABBY: I was molested by my sister’s husband in 1959. I was 5 years old. Growing up in the late '50s and '60s, sexual abuse was never discussed in my parents’ home. It just wasn’t done then. Of course, my brother-in-law told me it was “our little secret.”

This has affected my entire life. I didn’t get counseling for it because I didn’t remember it. I became promiscuous at a young age, but I cannot remember any of the sexual episodes. I have been with several thousand men and don’t remember any of them.

I came up with a theory that each time, I went into a “fugue state.” I understand it’s common in children who are molested young. I am horribly ashamed of my behavior, and I beg God nightly for forgiveness.

I’m married with a 29-year-old son, and my husband and son know all about my activities during our entire marriage. I have been chaste now for more than a year and doing my best to not “fall off the wagon.”

My sister and her husband are now elderly, but I still want to tell her that he abused me. He also abused his adopted daughter, who ran away when she was 14. Should I tell my sister about what he did to me, or must I take it to my grave? (We are already estranged.)

SURVIVING IN TEXAS

DEAR SURVIVING: I am truly sorry for what you experienced and how it has affected your life, and I congratulate you for your year of sobriety. That said, I think you would

benefit from talking to a mental health professional about this before deciding whether to tell your sister. I say this for your sake, not hers.

If she remained with her husband after he assaulted her young teenaged daughter (!), it won’t come as a total shock to her. However, she may be so calloused or deeply in denial that she won’t react or apologize, so do not expect it.

DEAR ABBY: My husband wants us to go to nudist resorts. We are both in our 70s and very out of shape. He is extremely overweight and old looking. Everything hangs. He has been rude and nasty to me because I always say no. I’m too old to leave him. We can’t keep fighting over this. He is also very unhealthy. Help! Please give me some advice.

CLOTHING NOT OPTIONAL

DEAR C.N.O.: I’ll try. Naturist or clothing-optional resorts are not what you may think they are. They are patronized by families and individuals of every shape, size and age.

In the interest of peace in your household, please do some research. Your husband is unwell, and you belong with him. You will not be the exception, you will be the norm and you will not be judged. Try it once and you will see that when the clothes come off, we are all variations on one grand design—even if some of the moving parts sag a little.

DEAR ABBY: My husband left me stranded at the train sta-

DEAR ABBY
By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



tion with no way to get home as a punishment for my daughter’s behavior. He said it was because I never take him seriously, and I should live with the consequences. I feel he crossed a very big boundary with this, and I’m considering leaving him. Am I wrong?

STRANDED IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR STRANDED: I don’t think so. But before visiting a divorce lawyer, it might be better to consult a licensed marriage and family therapist to see if you and your husband can find a more effective way to communicate.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: “Abby’s Favorite Recipes” and “More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby.” Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$16 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbook Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes



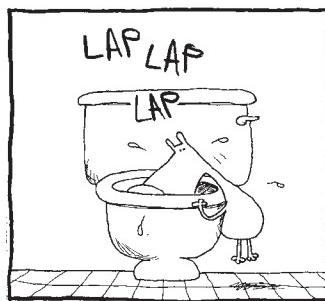
By Bill Watterson



By Bryan Basset



The Duplex



By Jim Davis



By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	43 "Finding	2 Ranch	25 Bern's
1 Summer cooler	—	measure	river
4 Aware of	44 Big D.C.	3 Close	26 Swizzle
8 Like ganders	lobby	4 Alfresco	27 First-rate
12 Rink surface	46 Like St. Nick	5 Cagers' gp.	28 Try out
13 Modern taxi rival	50 Dangle a carrot	6 Sawbuck	29 Say it's so
14 Muscat's land	55 Tic-tac-toe win	7 Wild revelry	30 Cager Archibald
15 Madrid Mrs.	56 Vicinity	8 Follower of Joseph Smith	31 Actress Skye
16 Small orange	57 Send forth	9 Parisian pal	35 Powerful engines
18 King of Judea	58 Marsh	10 PC linkup	38 Bearded seasonal mall
20 Candied veggie	59 Casual tops	11 Away from	40 Sticky stuff
21 Corporate symbol	60 Robbers' foes	WSW	42 — -la-la
24 BLT bread	61 Clean air org.	17 "Mangia!"	45 Baldwin of "Aloha"
28 Indian cooking style	DOWN	19 Ancient	47 Earring site
32 Post-WWII alliance	1 Go angling	22 — alone (have no help)	48 Air-show stunt
33 Actress Longoria	23 Church keyboard	49 Meditative practice	50 Body art, for short
34 Severity		51 Exist	52 Born abroad?
36 Shred		53 "As I see it," in a text	54 Energy

Solution time: 23 mins.



Yesterday's answer 12-11

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:

Mo'Nique, 52; Gary Dourdin, 53; Jermaine Jackson, 65; Bess Armstrong, 66.

Happy Birthday: Evaluate, question and make adjustments. Refuse to let the past hold you hostage mentally, emotionally or physically. Engage in new beginnings, set your sights on what's possible and recognize who is a good influence. Consider what brings you joy and promotes what you want to achieve. Surround yourself with people who bring out the best in you. Your numbers are 8, 14, 21, 24, 28, 35, 41.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Stop, think and consider your options. Don't feel you have to take the same life journey as everyone else. Consider what makes you happy and how you can put your skills and your energy to good use. Choose your path and proceed. ☀️☀️☀️

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Financial matters should be looked at carefully. If you are too abrupt with your decisions and spend without thinking, you'll have regrets. An opportunity is useful only if it fits into your lifestyle and is conducive to making you happy. ☀️☀️

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Partnerships will be full of surprises. Be careful who you trust with information that someone might use against you. A disappointment is likely if you leave essential details to someone who can't be trusted or isn't capable. ☀️☀️

CANCER (June 21-July 22): It's OK to be different. Listen to your heart, and sidle up beside people who motivate you to grow and excel at the things that bring you the

most joy. Put your energy where it counts, and don't look back. ☀️☀️☀️

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Get involved in something that makes you feel good. Lend a helping hand, speak up and make a difference. Be passionate and proactive, but don't let anyone talk you into donating or spending. Keep money, possessions and secrets in a safe place. ☀️☀️☀️

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Avoid an emotional scene with someone close to you. You need time to consider what's best for you. Spend time with someone who offers sound advice, and you will see how you can turn a negative into a positive. Embrace change. ☀️☀️

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You'll get a different perspective of what you can do if you distance yourself from what's going on in your backyard. Taking a day trip, going to a meeting or getting together with someone who knows you well will help expose your options. ☀️☀️☀️

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Participate in something that is community-oriented or that will open your eyes to what's going on with a friend or relative. Knowledge will lead to an unexpected change that will improve your life. Romance is in the stars. ☀️☀️

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Be open regarding your feelings. Don't lead anyone on or let anyone take advantage of you. It's up to you to say no to anyone or anything that isn't in your best interest. Focus on what's right and what makes you happy. ☀️☀️

CANCER (June 21-July 22): It's OK to be different. Listen to your heart, and sidle up beside people who motivate you to grow and excel at the things that bring you the

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): A change you make will surprise someone close to you. How you handle your money will make a difference. Shop for bargains, and don't go into debt to win favors or buy love. Spend more time with someone you love. ☀️☀️

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): A change at home will add to family comfort. Plan to host an event or spend more downtime with the ones you love. Don't believe everything you hear or agree to something without having all the facts. ☀️☀️☀️

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Emotional matters will leave you wondering what to do next. Your experience will help you make a wise decision now. Less talk and more action will encourage others to stop complaining and start pitching in to help. ☀️

Birthday Baby: You are entertaining, playful and intelligent. You are outgoing and amicable.

Visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

	8			9				
5		1	9			8		
	2	3	4	8	5			
		9			5			
1	2			4	7			
	5	3			1	8		
	6			2				
8	6	7	4		9			
7					1			

Difficulty Level ★★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

6	2	7	5	9	1	3	4	8
5	1	3	7	4	8	2	9	6
4	9	8	2	6	3	5	7	1
3	5	6	8	2	9	7	1	4
1	4	2	6	5	7	8	3	9
8	7	9	1	3	4	6	2	5
9	8	4	3	7	5	1	6	2
7	6	1	9	8	2	4	5	3
2	3	5	4	1	6	9	8	7

Difficulty Level ★★★

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUDET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

A GOOD WORK ETHIC

Solution: 8 letters

U	R	E	T	A	C	I	N	U	M	O	C	P	P
P	E	P	D	E	Z	I	N	A	G	R	O	R	R
D	S	A	D	E	I	C	A	T	E	P	O	O	I
A	P	T	U	F	F	G	E	M	I	T	F	P	D
T	O	E	H	O	N	O	R	N	I	E	C	U	R
E	N	A	R	C	T	A	T	M	(S)	T	E	R	C
L	S	M	E	U	E	L	I	S	(B)	A	R	A	T
B	I	W	E	S	E	S	I	K	(O)	V	E	T	I
A	B	O	R	T	M	O	I	I	J	I	V	I	V
I	L	R	A	E	N	N	R	L	S	T	E	O	E
L	E	K	C	A	D	E	U	L	K	O	S	N	V
E	A	R	L	Y	U	A	L	S	S	M	R	A	O
R	E	S	P	E	T	E	A	A	L	E	A	R	N
G	N	I	N	E	T	S	I	L	T	I	P	S	P
L	C	O	N	F	I	D	E	N	C	E	D	I	T

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12/11
Adapt, Bonus, Career, Communicate, Confidence, Cooperation, Dedicate, Early, Edit, Focus, Goals, Honor, Jobs, Kind, Leader, Learn, Listening, Meet, Motivate, Optimism, Organize, Persevere, Prioritize, Productive, Professional, Prove, Reliable, Respect, Responsible, Rule, Skills, Talent, Tasks, Teamwork, Time, Tips, Uniform, Update
Yesterday's Answer: Endings

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Strasburg, Nats reach record \$245M, 7-year deal

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Stephen Strasburg returned to the Washington Nationals with a record contract on the first day of the winter meetings, a deal that puts fellow free agent pitcher Gerrit Cole in position for an even larger payday.

Washington and the World Series MVP agreed to a \$245 million, seven-year contact, a deal of surprising size and length for a 31-year-old right-hander with an injury filled resume.

Strasburg received the highest deal for a pitcher in both total dollars and average annual value at \$35 million. The largest contract for a pitcher had been David Price's \$217 million, seven-year deal with Boston that began in 2016. The highest average value had been Zack Greinke's \$34.4 million as part of a \$206.5 million, six-year agreement with Arizona prior to the 2016 season.

"For me, it was an early Christmas present," Washington manager Dave Martinez said. "Just watching his whole career, to think that he's going to end it here with the team he started with is awesome for him and his family."

Strasburg gets \$35 million annually, with \$80 million deferred—an even \$11,428,571 a year—at 1% interest. The deferred money is payable from 2028-30, with an interest payment of about \$4 million due on Dec. 31, 2029.

Cole, like Strasburg represented by agent Scott Boras, is expected to shatter Strasburg's salary standards sometime soon. Cole is two years younger, and while he made five trips to the disabled list from 2014-16, he has not been sidelined since.

Other big names could be in play this week as teams talk trades and agents pitch free agents. But recent meetings have been more talk than action.

"Right now it seems like the dominoes are falling more quickly than they have in the past," said new Los Angeles Angels manager Joe Maddon, whose team is thought to be competing with the New York Yankees for Cole. "We somehow have to grab some of these dominoes right now and figure it out."

In the other big contract announced Monday, Philadelphia finalized a \$118 million, five-year agreement with Zack Wheeler that was reached last week subject to a successful physical.

Strasburg was drafted first overall by Washington in 2009 and has spent his entire career with the Nationals. He'll stay



AP
In this Oct. 1, 2019 file photo, Washington Nationals starting pitcher Stephen Strasburg (37) pitches during the sixth inning of a National League wild card game against the Milwaukee Brewers at Nationals Park in Washington.

in a \$426.5 million, 12-year contract with the Los Angeles Angels that started last season.

Washington has invested heavily in starting pitching. Scherzer, also a Boras client, agreed to a \$210 million, seven-year contract before the 2015 season. Corbin reached a \$140 million, six-year deal last offseason.

Rizzo confirmed a pending \$6.25 million, one-year deal to keep second baseman Howie Kendrick, one of Washington's postseason stars.

Giants seek pitching, but few signs Bumgarner returning

In San Diego, the Giants would sure like to add a pitcher at this week's winter meetings.

It just might not be Madison Bumgarner.

San Francisco president of baseball operations Farhan Zaidi plans to meet with agents for the free agent left-hander, but there are few signs the Giants are ready to commit big money to him for the long haul.

"We're in contact with his representatives and expect to meet with them here," Zaidi said Monday. "We are in touch with them. We will meet with them in person at some point here."

Bumgarner was perhaps the biggest reason San Francisco won a third World Series over five years in 2014 and earned MVP honors from the Fall Classic. He hasn't been quite so dominant since. The 30-year-old may seek a deal similar to Zack Wheeler, who finalized a \$118 million, five-year deal with the Philadelphia Phillies on Monday.

"I would expect us to add at least one starting pitcher here and by here I don't mean necessarily in San Diego, but there's a good chance we do that," Zaidi said. "We're having multiple conversations on that front. Pitching is a big priority here for us as it is for a lot of teams. It has been a major focus for us leading up to this and I expect us to be busy this week."

When the season ended, Bumgarner had prepared for the fact his tenure in San Francisco could be over. The Giants are looking to move forward with a younger roster and smaller payroll while trying to build back into a consistent contender.

in a rotation that also features All-Stars Max Scherzer and Patrick Corbin.

"He's a wonderful person, a wonderful player and a true champion," Nationals general manager Mike Rizzo said at a news conference. "We know this person, we know his character, we know his work ethic."

He was 18-6 with a 3.32

After helping win the first World Series title in the 51-season history of the Montreal/Washington franchise, Strasburg gave up \$100 million he had been guaranteed from 2020-23 as part of a \$175 million, seven-year contract he agreed to in May 2016 and became a free agent.

ERA this season, topping 30 starts for the second time in his career and leading the NL with 209 innings. He went 5-0 with a 1.98 ERA in five post-season starts and one relief appearance, including wins in Games 2 and 6 of the World Series against Houston.

In a career interrupted by Tommy John surgery shortly

after his spectacular major league debut in 2010, Strasburg is 112-58 with a 3.17 ERA and 1,695 strikeouts in parts of 10 seasons. He's made 10 trips to the disabled list over seven of those years.

Strasburg's average annual value is second among all players behind outfielder Mike Trout's \$35.5 million

with baseball's PED era. "We've had our concerns," Maddon said. "Everybody's had their concerns about that. It's not like it's anything new. I want to believe that MLB will do something to eradicate that. I like a level playing field, period."

New Phillies manager Joe Girardi, who lost to those 2017 Astros when he was the Yankees skipper, said he wasn't surprised when the Astros scandal erupted.

"I wasn't shocked," Girardi said. "You know, word gets around."

While everybody in baseball waits to see what sort of punishment the Astros will get and what other layers of this MLB's investigation reveal — in Houston or elsewhere — right now, there's just a lot of talking. And in a place like the winter meetings, which is crawling with reporters, there are also a lot of questions.

"We're kinda like you guys,

waiting to hear," said Tampa Bay Rays manager Kevin Cash. "But as of now, I don't know what's taking place."

"I think we're all paranoid," said Texas Rangers manager Chris Woodward.

Alex Cora, the Boston Red Sox manager, who was a bench coach for the Astros in 2017, didn't have a lot of answers. Not to give reporters, anyway.

"I know you have a job to do and you have to ask the question," Cora told a scrum of reporters, "but out of respect to the investigation that MLB has and the Astros, I'm not going to answer that question."

He did confirm that he talked to MLB investigators "early in the process" and left it at that.

It was Maddon who had the most to say on the issue, comparing it to another of MLB's biggest controversies—the PED era.

"Good old-fashioned sign stealing from your eyeballs,

that's not cheating. It's just good baseball. When you use electronic cheating, that's not good," Maddon said. "It's almost tantamount to steroids in regards to an imbalanced playing field. If we could level that out and eradicate that and you get guys going out there naked every night just based on their own abilities, I'll take it."

"But to do it from a centerfield camera or from banging an object in the dugout or whistles. Whistles were big too. One city was big on whistling. That's the kind of stuff I want to get rid of."

Until there's resolution to this case—and that doesn't seem like it's going to happen soon; there's a better chance Cole signs this week—and we find out the fate of the Astros and MLB's stance on electronic sign-stealing, get used to this.

Because there will continue to be more questions than answers.

Kings stun Rockets on Bjelica's buzzer-beating trey



HOUSTON (AP) — When Luke Walton took over as coach of the Sacramento Kings, he thought Nemanja Bjelica was just a big man he could use to create space.

As he's gotten to know Bjelica, Walton has started to see that the 6-foot-10 forward is much more than that, which was clear on Monday night against the Houston Rockets when Bjelica made a 3-pointer at the buzzer to lift the Kings to a 119-118 victory.

"As I get to know him and see what he's capable of ... (I see) he's a skilled player," Walton said.

The game was tied before Russell Westbrook drove into the lane for a layup that put Houston on top with a second to go. After a timeout, Cory Joseph inbounded the ball to Bjelica and his 3-pointer swished through the net to give the Kings the win and send the entire bench onto the court to celebrate.

"Great pass by Cory and I was open and went deep because I felt good at that range," Bjelica said. "And I just took a shot and it went in."



Houston coach Mike D'Antoni explained what happened with his team's defense

on the final play.

"Just a breakdown," he said. "We just left a guy wide open for no reason whatsoever."

Buddy Hield had 26 points to lead the Kings, who had six players score in double figures as they won their second straight after losing the previous three.

Hield and the rest of the Kings were thrilled to see Bjelica make such a big play.

"You saw when he made the shot how everyone loves him," Hield said. "He's one of the best teammates on the team so everybody is happy for his success."

Westbrook had a season-high 34 points and James Harden added 27 points and 10 assists for Houston.

The game was tied earlier in the fourth when Westbrook dished it to Ben McLemore, whose 3-pointer made it 116-113 with 22.7 seconds to go. Hield missed a 3-pointer after that, but Bogdan Bogdanovic grabbed the rebound and got it back to Hield, who didn't miss this time to tie it again with 8.4 seconds left.

Clippers 110, Pacers 99

In Indianapolis, Paul George had the perfect response to a crescendo of boos Monday night.

He silenced the crowd by making play after play and basket after basket.

The former Pacers star scored 36 points, grabbed nine rebounds, made a season-high seven 3-pointers and had five assists in his first game in Indianapolis with the Clippers, leading short-handed Los Angeles to a victory.

"It brings incentive when the moments are dead, it brings energy when moments are dead, it brings an aggression when moments are light," George said. "I feed off it. It's fun, it makes the game that much more fun to compete in."

While George starred in the lead role, he got plenty of help, too.

Montrezl Harrell added 26 points and eight rebounds and helped keep the Pacers at arm's length when they charged back in the final minutes. Patrick Beverley finished with 11 points, 12 rebounds and five assists, while Maurice Harkless snagged 14 rebounds as the Clippers earned their fourth win in five games.

But this night was all about George—and the fans, many of whom still haven't forgiven him for forcing a summer trade three years ago.

Celtics 110, Cavaliers 88

In Boston, Kemba Walker led the Celtics' balanced scoring with 22 points, Gordon Hayward had 14 points in his return from a broken hand and the Celtics remained unbeaten at home with a victory over the sinking Cleveland Cavaliers.

Jaylen Brown had 20 points and seven rebounds, Jayson Tatum added 19 points with 11 boards, and Daniel Theis scored 10 for Boston, which improved to 10-0 at TD Garden.

Jordan Clarkson led Cleveland with 19 points, and Tristan Thompson had 17 points with 11 rebounds. The Cavaliers have lost seven straight games and 13 of 14.

AP Sacramento Kings' Nemanja Bjelica (88) hits the game-winning 3-point-basket at the buzzer in the second half of an NBA game against the Houston Rockets Monday, Dec. 9, 2019, in Houston.

hit a 14-foot jumper in the lane with 0.3 seconds left and scored 17 of his 21 points in the fourth quarter to lift Detroit over the Hornets.

With the game tied, Detroit worked an isolation play for Rose, who dribbled the ball out top against Jrue Holiday. Rose drove into the lane, spun to the right and hit the jumper over Holiday's outstretched arms.

New Orleans inbounded the ball from halfcourt toward Jaxson Hayes, but the rookie center could not get the tying tip-in.

Thunder 104, Jazz 90

In Salt Lake City, Dennis Schroder scored 27 points off the bench and Oklahoma City beat Utah.

Shai Gilgeous-Alexander scored 20 points and Chris Paul added 16 points and seven assists for the Thunder. Steven Adams chipped in with 11 points and 13 rebounds.

Oklahoma City got a big lift from its bench and outscored the Utah reserves 45-23. The Thunder shot 47% from the field.

Donovan Mitchell scored 26 points to lead the Jazz.

Suns 125, Timberwolves 109

In Phoenix, Devin Booker scored 26 points, Kelly Oubre Jr. added 24 on his 24th birthday and the Suns beat Minnesota.

Oubre shot 8 of 15 from the field and made all six free throws, while Ricky Rubio finished with 16 points and 14 assists. The Suns won at home for the first time since Nov. 14, snapping a four-game losing streak at Talking Stick Resort Arena.

Dario Saric added 20 points for Phoenix. Rubio has had at least 13 assists in three straight games.

Grizzlies 110, Warriors 102

In San Francisco, Ja Morant returned to Memphis lineup and scored 26 points to lead the Grizzlies over Golden State.

The No. 2 pick in the draft added seven assists, two rebounds and a steal in 29 minutes after missing the previous four games with a sore back.

Dillon Brooks added 17 points and Jaren Jackson Jr. had 16 as the Grizzlies (7-16) won for just the second time in 11 games.

Sharapova ruled out of Tokyo Olympic Games

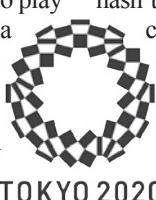
Maria Sharapova, who would have a difficult time qualifying for the Olympics next year, committed to play an event in California the week of the Tokyo Games.

Sharapova is scheduled to play World Team Tennis TOKYO 2020 matches in California during the Olympic tennis events in late July, according to a press release. Sharapova's longtime agent hasn't responded to a message seeking confirmation that she is ruling out the Tokyo Games.

Sharapova, 32 and the 2012 Olympic silver medalist, was barred from the Rio Games due to her 15-month meldonium suspension in 2016 and 2017. That alone could rule her ineligible for Tokyo, given the World Anti-Doping Agency's sanctions against Russia on Monday.

Sharapova is ranked No. 131 after a season shortened by shoulder surgery. She would have to be among the top four ranked Russian women after the French Open in June for possible automatic Olympic qualification. She is currently the 14th Russian.

Olympic eligibility rules



She carried the Russian flag into the London 2012 Opening Ceremony and carried the Olympic flame into Fisht Stadium at the Sochi 2014 Opening Ceremony, where she worked for NBC Olympics.

"It was the one thing that my parents allowed me to watch on TV late into the evening was the Olympics," Sharapova said in 2017. "I grew up watching figure skating and hockey and a little bit of tennis. ... Just capturing the Opening Ceremonies and seeing all the countries and the little hats that they wore, and I, as a little girl, I just imagined that maybe it would be me. But I never, ever thought that I would be carrying the flag."

In February 2016, Sharapova entered a Fed Cup tie, despite saying she was injured, in order to receive Olympic eligibility. One month later, her failed drug test was announced.

Eagles rally past Manning, Giants in OT

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Carson Wentz relied on a bunch of guys off the practice squad and his go-to guy Zach Ertz to rally the Philadelphia Eagles.

After Eli Manning led the New York Giants to a 14-point lead, Wentz brought the injury-depleted Eagles back and tossed a 2-yard touchdown pass to Ertz in overtime to give Philadelphia a 23-17 win on Monday night.

The Eagles (6-7) snapped a three-game losing streak and moved into a tie with Dallas (6-7) for first place in the NFC East. Philadelphia takes the division title if it wins its final three games. The Eagles meet the Cowboys in Week 16.

"Guys stepped up and made plays," Wentz said. "We had guys moving around and I had no choice but to trust these guys."

The Eagles were down to one healthy wide receiver by the end of the game and were using inexperienced guys and players out of position. Ertz, a Pro Bowl tight end, had to line up at wide receiver.

"We understood as a team that we had to find a way," Ertz said.

Manning, the two-time Super Bowl MVP, threw a pair of TD passes to Darius Slayton in his first game since Week 2. Filling in for injured rookie Daniel Jones, Manning was 15 of 30 for 203 yards. But he couldn't prevent New York (2-11) from losing its ninth straight game, tying a franchise record set in 1976, when the team opened 0-9.



New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady (12) passes under pressure from Kansas City Chiefs defensive end Alex Okafor (97) in the first half of an NFL game, Sunday, Dec. 8, 2019, in Foxborough, Mass. AP

"I've played a lot of football games," Manning said. "I know the offense and know what I'm supposed to do. I made some good throws and didn't make some plays that I needed to."

Wentz threw for 325 yards and a pair of TDs, including a 5-yard toss to Ertz to tie it at 17 with 1:53 left.

Already missing three starters on offense, the Eagles lost wide receiver Alshon Jeffery and right tackle Lane Johnson in the first half and were booted off the field trailing 17-3 at halftime.

They went three-and-out on five straight possessions before Boston Scott caught a 10-yard pass on third-and-5 in

the third quarter. Scott then ran 4 yards to the 2 on third-and-3 and scored on the next play to cut it to 17-10.

Scott, one of the former practice squad players, provided a big spark. He had 59 yards rushing and 69 yards receiving.

"Just do my job. You never know when your opportunity might come," Scott said.

Wentz drove Philadelphia to the Giants 29 with just under 10 minutes left but Greg Ward dropped what should've been a 29-yard TD pass on third-and-11. Jake Elliott then missed a 47-yard field goal wide left.

But the defense held and Wentz drove the Eagles 85 yards and connected with Ertz

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (AP)—The New England Patriots acknowledged on Monday night that a video crew working for the team filmed the Cincinnati Bengals sideline during Sunday's game, a violation of league rules that echoed the team's 2007 Spygate scandal.

In a statement posted on Twitter and the team website, the Patriots said that a three-person crew for a web series titled "Do Your Job" "inappropriately filmed the field from the press box" as part of a feature on the scouting department. The filming took place "without specific knowledge of league rules," the statement said.

The team also said that while it was granted credentials for the crew from the Browns, the home team, "our failure to inform the Bengals and the League was an unintended oversight." When confronted, the team said the crew "immediately turned over all footage to the league and cooperated fully."

"The sole purpose of the

Pats caught videotaping in Spygate sequel

filming was to provide an illustration of an advance scout at work on the road. There was no intention of using the footage for any other purpose," the statement said. "We accept full responsibility for the actions of our production crew at the Browns-Bengals game."

The Patriots were fined \$250,000 and docked a first-round draft pick in 2007 for violating NFL rules against using video to steal signals. Coach Bill Belichick was fined \$500,000.

The scandal, dubbed Spygate, helped fuel a widespread distrust of the team that reverberated a decade later when the team was accused of illegally deflating the footballs used in the 2015 AFC championship game. Quarterback Tom Brady was suspended four games, and the team was fined \$1 million and docked another first-round draft pick.

The latest allegations came to light when Bengals coach Zac Taylor, whose team plays

New England on Sunday, confirmed that the league was investigating the crew's activities. An NFL spokesman did not immediately respond to a request from The Associated Press seeking comment.

Asked about the reports during his radio show on Monday, Belichick told WEEI radio that the video crew was completely separate from the football staff.

"We have absolutely nothing to do with anything that they produce or direct or shoot," said Belichick, who did appear on camera in an earlier episode of the series, on the equipment manager. "I have never seen any of their tapes or anything else. This is something that we 100 percent have zero involvement with."

Loftier goal for Ravens

Ravens have far loftier goal than merely making playoffs

A year ago, the Baltimore Ravens earned a trip to the playoffs by squeezing past

Cleveland on the final day of the regular season.

The Ravens have already qualified for a return trip, and it's quite possible they can clinch the top seed in the AFC before the season finale against Pittsburgh.

Baltimore (11-2) has won nine straight and holds a commanding lead in the AFC with three weeks to go. The Ravens' closest pursuer is New England (10-3), which is essentially 1 1/2 games back because Baltimore owns the tiebreaker by virtue of its 37-20 victory over the Patriots last month.

A victory over the New York Jets at home on Thursday night will assure the Ravens a second straight AFC North title. Then, by defeating the Browns on Dec. 22, Baltimore will clinch a first-round bye and home-field advantage up to the Super Bowl.

This year, just getting into the playoffs isn't good enough.

"It's cool," quarterback La-

mar Jackson said, "but we're trying to finish out."

Browns not focusing on OBJ drama

Odell Beckham Jr. gave each of his Browns teammates a new pair of his signature Nike sneakers on Monday.

It's unclear if they're Christmas presents or going-away gifts.

Beckham's gesture could not have been more perfectly timed from a personal public relations standpoint. It came amid reports over the past two days that the star wide receiver is unhappy in Cleveland, frustrated with his lack of production and at odds with the team's coaching staff.

One report even said Beckham has gone as far as telling opposing players and coaches during games to "come get me" in the offseason.

On Monday, Browns first-year coach Freddie Kitchens, whose job title should maybe include ringmaster—or

ring leader—for this strange, swerving, circus-like season in Cleveland, said he has no problems with Beckham and he's not convinced he wants out.

"Did Odell say that?" Kitchens said. "OK, case closed then. Odell did not say it. Odell has not told me anything remotely dealing with that. Until I hear something from Odell, I'm not going to comment. Odell and my relationship is fine. Odell and Adam's (receivers coach Adam Henry) relationship is fine."

"But I can only tell you what I think, and what I've seen from Odell, and what I've seen from Odell is nothing like the reports indicate. Sorry."

Like his coach, Browns center JC Tretter feels Beckham has fit in and is buying into the system. That's not to say there haven't been growing pains in Cleveland's offense, which has not found a consistent rhythm despite an abundance of talent. Tretter said Beckham has "been a model citizen" with the Browns and believes he has team-oriented goals.

Over 40 to compete in Art of War 14



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Trench Tech co-founder Cuki Alvarez, second row right, poses with the young participants and instructors of a Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu class at the Trench Tech Gym in Garapan. This Saturday's Art of War 14 Grappling Submission Challenge will feature participants in the 10 to 14 age group.

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

This Saturday's Art of War 14 Grappling Submission Challenge will feature more than 40 participants competing in various weight classes.

A total of 46 individuals have registered for this weekend's event and they will vie for the grand cash prize as well as gold,

silver, and bronze medals.

In the No Gi flyweight class (100 lbs-134 lbs), Drey Rador will be up against Keith Queef, Edward Diaz, Matts Guyos, and Gio Taitingfong. Taitingfong is also entered in the bantamweight division (135 lbs-144 lbs) and will challenge Franklin Santos and Ray Santos.

For the featherweight class

(145 lbs-160 lbs), the competitors are Shane Alvarez, Mark Nuique, Alverick Alvarez, and Kenji Okiyama. The Alvarez siblings will also vie for the gold and the bragging rights in the lightweight category (161 lbs-175 lbs) against Sangalang and Mark Nuique.

In the middleweight class

(176 lbs-204 lbs), the registered participants are Jose Ramirez, Frankie Muña, Beng Masga, and Kier Agda.

For the heavyweight class (205 lbs and up), Kelvin Fitial, Kier Agda, Jose Ramirez, and Jose Mafnas have confirmed their participation.

Meanwhile, in the Gi absolute white belt women's category, Mari Alvarez, Chelsea Ayuyu, Loretto Itibus, Allana Jackson, Momiko Santos, Ava Deleon Guerrero, Taylor San



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Organizer Trench Tech has the medals ready for this Saturday's Art of War 14 Grappling Submission Challenge.

Nicolas, Yoo Young Chung, Skye Han, and Lousie Villagomez will battle it out for the gold.

In the absolute white belt men's division, the participants' list includes Pali Rovnan, Dan Ryan Tumaquip, Jose Quan, Prince Jackson, Sammy Alvarez, Naven Santos, Eujin Chung, Frankie Muña, Jin Han, and Ray Santos.

Registered participants in the absolute blue belt category are Sangalang, Franklin Santos, Nuique, Taitingfong, Ramirez, and Agda, while the absolute

purple belt division will have Shane and Alverick Alvarez, Jose Mafnas, Vince Masga, and Ken Tanzawa.

In the black belt, it will be a Guam vs Guam showdown with Spike 22's Okiyama facing Purebred BJJ's Oliver Cruz.

There will be a kids category competition (10 to 14 age group) this weekend and the special event will feature Edward Diaz, BengBeng Palacios, Terence San Nicolas, Phil Simon Gregorio, Keone Santos, Isaac Han, and Dre Rador.

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J.C. added that she got worried in the last 25K of the race, as fatigue started to take its toll on her.

"The hardest part was along the Kingfisher [portion] because I was already exhausted coming from Papago and Kagman climbs," J.C. said.

Bob, who rounded out the course about 20 minutes ahead of his daughter to make it to the Top 3 of the 45 to 49 age group, had no doubts the teen rider will complete the race, although he kept checking on her, especially when she was negotiating uphill roads.

"During the race, I can't concentrate because I kept on thinking about J.C. When I was climbing Papago, I called my wife (Tisha) and asked her where J.C. is," Bob said.

"I always believed that she can do it because she's a very competitive person. I finished first and I waited for her at the finish line. It was an emotional moment for us because all our hard work paid off," he added.

Meanwhile, Spaeth prevailed in the all-CNMI showdown for the women's 30 to 39 division title after crossing the finish line a little over a minute ahead of Heather Taylor, who clocked in at 4:18:01. Shawna Brennfleck was at distant third



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Father and daughter Bob and J.C. Ferrer wait for the start of the Hell of Marianas Century Cycle Race last Saturday at the former Mariana Resort & Spa.

after posting 4:51:57.

Kimiko McKagan and Sheila Isla were the other female riders from the CNMI who completed the 100K race.

McKagan timed in at 4:31:22, while Isla submitted 6:15:43 to finish second in the 40 to 44 age group behind South Korea's Jeongeon Choi (5:11:11).

OL'ACES

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triumph for the Sonics, as they faced a 17-24 deficit at half-time. The Sonics stole the victory after holding the Ol'Aces 2 to 5 points in the second half.

Jedial Manalo led the Sonics' rally in the final 20 minutes of play, as he scored 8 points in that frame after being limited to 2 markers in the first half. Khristian Itaas, who was scoreless in the opening half, delivered 4 points, including the Sonics' last basket.

Rollers 1 68, Ol'Aces 3 27

In last Saturday's opening match in the U18 division, Rollers 1 eased past the

FINALE

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Matansa, despite failing to neutralize Pagarao, remained in contention in the first half after getting goals from three different players. Britany Wally had a pair for Matansa, as she drew first blood for the team in the third minute and posted her second in the 17th. Lilian Podziewski handed Matansa its second goal in the 10th minute, while Jannah

Ol'Aces 3.

The Rollers 1 set the tone in the match early after building a 42-11 lead. Ervin Villarin, Mikel Johnson, and Gregory Deleon Guerrero teamed up in anchoring the Rollers 1's strong start, as they combined for 25 points in the first half. Villarin had 9 markers, while Johnson and Deleon Guerrero added 8 each.

Fiesta Resort 53, Rollers 3 34

In the other boys U18 division match last Saturday, Fiesta also posted an easy victory over Rollers 3.

Drew Bayot and Tony Kim joined forces in lifting Fiesta Resort to its debut win, as the former scored 13 points and the latter recorded 11.

Casarino scored in the 18th to keep Kanoa within striking distance at the break.

When the game resumed, Pagarao slowed down a bit, as she made only two goals, but Paulynn Joyce and Sharmaine Francisco were there to provide help and ensure that Kanoa would not be denied on its finals bid. Pagarao delivered her goals in the 32nd and 48th minute, while Joyce also had twin goals after scoring in the 38th and 40th minute. Not

Monday's Game

Ol'Aces 1 88—Atan 15, Ichihara 14, Perez 14, Hapdei 12, Laniyo 10, Laxa 6, Tisa 4, Mencjor 4, Omelau 4, Soriano 4.

Rollers 2 43—Mizutani 15, Cruz 12, Palms 8, Claridades 4, Pelisamen 3.

Scoring by halves: 41-8, 88-43.

Sunday's Game

Ol'Aces 56—Laniyo 10, Menchor 8, Omelau 8, Atan 7, Hapdei 6, Norita 4, Roligat 4, Laxa 3, Ichihara 2, Abejo 2.

Ol'Aces 2 31—Sacdal 6, Kapwich 6, Quitugua 4, Sabilan 4, They 2, Ada 2, Olopai 2, Yalung 2.

Scoring by halves: 30-20, 56-31.

to be outdone was Francisco, who found her target in the 35th and 49th minute.

As for Matansa, only Mia Carreon and Wally made it to the board with the former getting her first goal in the semis game in the 40th minute and the latter completing a hat trick five minutes later.

With the loss, Matansa will just play in the battle for third place against Paire at 6pm, while the Kanoa-TanHoldings finale is scheduled for 8pm.



Strasburg,
Nats reach
record \$245M,
7-year deal

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Kings stun
Rockets on
Bjelica's
buzzer-
beating trey

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

28 WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2019

14-year-old leads non-pro finishers in 'Hell'

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Tanapag Middle School student J.C. Ferrer was the youngest competitor in last Saturday's Hell of Marianas Century Cycle Race and was also the fastest finisher in the non-pro women's division.

The 14-year-old completed the 100-kilometer race in 4:16:20, reaching the start/finish line at the former Mariana Resort & Spa 8 seconds ahead of 30 to 39 age group

women's champion Robyn Spaeth (4:16:28).

It was her first time to compete in the grueling race and her father, Bob, greeted her at the finish line with pride, as the eighth grader emerged as the top female finisher in the CNMI.

"It was a tough race and I'm just happy I finished it. I did it for my dad. I learned from him how to do this so I'm very thankful for his guidance. Until now I can't believe that I did it," said J.C., who prepared for her Hell of

Marianas debut with her dad.

"The hardest part was the training with my dad. I got used to riding with him that's why it was not easy for me when I was on my own during last Saturday's race," the Tanapag Middle School student said.

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
J.C. Ferrer, right, is greeted by her father, Bob, after she completed the Hell of Marianas Century Cycle Race last Saturday.



Back-to-back for Ol'Aces 1

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Ol'Aces 1 proved to be too much for its first two opponents in the boys U18 division of the 2019 TanHoldings Christmas Basketball Tournament being played at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

In its opening match in the holiday caging last Sunday, the Ol'Aces 1 zoomed past Ol'Aces 2, 56-31. The Greg Iginoef-coach Ol'Aces 1 then picked up where it left off, hammering the Rollers 2 last Monday, 88-43.

Against the Rollers 2, the Ol'Aces 1's patented backcourt pressure defense was in full display early on in the game, allowing the former to open a 16-4 advantage. The Ol'Aces ended up way ahead after the first period, 41-8, as the Rollers 2 could not find an antidote to the Ol'Aces 1's pesky defense that resulted to easy baskets for the winning team.

Five Ol'Aces 1 players finished in twin digits in their lopsided victory over the Rollers 2 with Albert Atan leading the way with his 15 points. Isaac Perez and John Ichihara



The Ol'Aces 1's Daryl Soriano takes off for a shot during the first half of their boys U18 division game against Rollers 2 in the 2019 TanHoldings Christmas Basketball Tournament last Monday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

added 14 apiece, Kiku Hapdei chipped in 12, and Jesstin Laniyo tallied 10. Six other Ol'Aces 1 players combined for 24 markers for the squad's balanced offense.

Koboy Mizutani paced the Rollers 1 with his 15 markers.

Meanwhile, versus the Ol'Aces 2, the Ol'Aces 1 also spread the wealth en route to its 25-point winning margin.

Laniyo registered 10 points, while four of his teammates contributed at least 6 points apiece.

670 Sonics 32, Ol'Aces 2 29

The Sonics handed the Ol'Aces 2 another loss after pulling off a close win last Monday.

It was a come-from-behind

See OL'ACES on Page 27

TanHoldings vs Kanoa in finale

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

TanHoldings Football Club and Kanoa Football Club will meet this Friday to battle for the Division A title in the 2019 Dove Women's Fall League at the TSL Sports Complex.

Kanoa and TanHoldings arranged their finals showdown after eliminating their respective opponents last Friday. TanHoldings took the first finals seat after getting a free win (via forfeiture) against Paire Football Club, while Kanoa notched a 12-6 triumph



Kanoa Football Club's Paulynn Joyce, center, is tightly guarded by TanHoldings Football Club's Katrina Costales, left, and Kaithlyn Chavez during their preliminary game in Division A of the 2019 Dove Women's Fall League last month at the TSL Sports Complex.